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Session Briefing Note

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 1 / ENV #9
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources
and Environment

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are making progress on consensus discussions regarding the decision on the Dawson Regional Land Use Recommended Plan.
- Engagement on the Recommended Plan concluded December 20, 2022. A What We Heard report detailing feedback received during the engagement was released in June 2023.
- Input gathered from the engagement will inform the Parties' decision whether to accept, reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan.
- If the Parties reject or request modifications to the Recommended Plan, the Commission will prepare a Final Recommended Plan. We anticipate they could provide a Final Recommended Plan in 2025.

Additional response:

- If a Final Recommended Plan is required, there will be another round of public engagements and First Nations consultation, and the Government of Yukon will provide detailed feedback to the Commission to support their work developing this plan.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, the Government of Yukon's response to the Recommended Plan, and the future of the interim withdrawals are of high interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in formed the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission in December 2018.

Session Briefing Note Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

EMR # 1 / ENV #9 Spring 2024 Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment

- The *Umbrella Final Agreement* Chapter 11 process provides the Commission with the autonomy to develop and recommend a plan to the Parties for their consideration.
- The Commission conducted a public consultation on the Draft Plan from June 15 to November 1, 2021.
- The Government of Yukon's response to the Draft Plan in November 2021 focused on six key topics: designations and Land Management Unit boundaries, cumulative effects, wetlands, culture and heritage, missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people, and implementation.
- Subsequent comments submitted to the Commission by the Government of Yukon pertained to critical minerals, access, rivers and watercourses, cumulative effects and working within the Draft Plan prohibition of entry order (interim and permanent).
- The Planning Commission delivered the Recommended Plan to the Parties (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon) on June 10, 2022.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in conducted a public consultation on the Commission's Recommended Plan from September 20 to December 20, 2022.
- Interim withdrawal of land proposed by the Commission was approved by Order-In-Council on June 15, 2021. This Order was amended on September 7, 2022, to reflect the Recommended Plan. The interim withdrawal is in effect until December 1, 2024 and may be extended to allow time to complete a final plan for the region.

Approved by:

	May 2, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources	_____ Date approved
_____ Deputy Minister of Environment	_____ May 2, 2024 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Gladiator Metals

#2
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Gladiator Metals recently applied to do exploration work near the former Whitehorse Copper mine. This area is not near homes, but some of the claims lie within city limits.
- A Class 1 authorization for the company's exploration work in the area was issued after consulting with affected First Nations. This authorization allows for only the lowest level of exploration work.
- The company recently completed its exploration work in the Cowley Creek area and is no longer authorized to conduct exploration work there. [An inspection confirmed the company completed its required reclamation work prior to the April 17, 2024 deadline to do so.](#)

Additional response:

- The Cowley Creek claims were staked decades ago and predate the nearby homes and staking prohibition. In the Yukon, claims may be renewed yearly provided the claim holder complies with renewal requirements.
- We have heard some residents raise concerns that mining exploration could increase the risk of radon in groundwater. Radon is sometimes present in groundwater in the area, but ore drilling for exploration is unlikely to alter groundwater quality.
- The Government of Yukon is collaborating with the University of Saskatchewan, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the City of Whitehorse to examine groundwater quality and hazards in Whitehorse to better understand the risks of radon in the groundwater. This is a three-year project funded by the National Research Council of Canada.

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Session Briefing Note

Gladiator Metals

#2
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is significant public interest in the work being undertaken by Gladiator Metals Ltd. given the locations of these activities and the recent court case.

Background:

- The Mineral Resources Branch received a complaint about the Class 1 activities near the Cowley Creek site on May 11, 2023, and requested the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch inspect the site. A Natural Resource Officer inspected the site and identified non-compliance issues.
- The company was convicted of six offences for unauthorized activities. On August 30, 2023, the company was fined \$38,000, plus a \$5,700 victim fine surcharge.
- Exploration activities near Cowley Creek concluded in October 2023. The company has until the permit's expiry date of April 17, 2024, to complete the required reclamation of the associated disturbance.
- Natural Resource Officers regularly visited the Cowley Creek site to ensure the company complied with its Class 1 notification terms and conditions. An interim site inspection was conducted in October 2023 to monitor ongoing reclamation efforts.
- On November 14, 2023, Gladiator Metals received authorization to conduct Class 1 quartz exploration near the former Whitehorse Copper property. The site lies along the Copper Haul Road, north of the Mt. Sima Road, and is not near residential subdivisions. Exploration work commenced in early January 2024.
- Due to the overlap with the City, the company required a development permit from the City of Whitehorse to proceed with work.
- The site was visited by the city of Whitehorse bylaw and development officers, company representatives and Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections on January 18, 2024. No concerns were noted at the time.
- A final site inspection [was conducted by Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections on April 2, 2024, confirming compliance](#) with all Class 1 permit conditions.

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Session Briefing Note
Gladiator Metals

#2
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

April 16, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Session Briefing Note Minto Mine

#3
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are moving forward quickly with work to reclaim and close the Minto Mine site, in close collaboration with Selkirk First Nation.
- We are cooperating with the Receiver, PricewaterhouseCoopers, in its efforts to find a buyer for the site. [The Receiver's court date to determine the next steps for the sales process is scheduled for May 10, 2024.](#)
- If the sales process is not successful, the Receiver will move to liquidating assets.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon spent approximately \$24 million in 2023/24 to protect the environment and begin remediating the site.
- In 2024/25, we anticipate spending up to an additional \$21.5 million as we move to reclaim and close the site. This will be recovered from the security we currently hold.
- Our initial estimates suggest that the costs for reclamation and closure of the mine are likely to be close to the \$93.2 million in financial security we sought from the mine operator. These estimates will be updated as work progresses.
- We are using a range of approaches to ensure work progresses effectively and efficiently, including open tenders where possible and direct award contracts where work must be delivered in shorter timeframes.

Session Briefing Note

Minto Mine

#3
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been significant attention on the recent abandonment of the Minto Mine.

Background:

- The Minto Mine was an underground copper mine with gold and silver byproducts located on Selkirk First Nation's Category A Settlement Land.
- On May 13, 2023, Minto Metals abandoned the site and the Government of Yukon took over short-term environmental management responsibilities.
- The Government of Yukon contracted JDS to immediately mobilize the site under a short-term contract to secure critical resources and subcontractors and initiate required activities. This contract ended on July 27, 2023, when Boreal Engineering took over as the site operator.
- On July 24, 2023, the B.C. Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Minto Mine site. The receiver is responsible for all of Minto's assets, undertakings and property, and has the authority, among other things, to put the mine up for sale.
- As Minto Mine is on Category A Settlement Land, Selkirk First Nation holds surface and subsurface rights and the Government of Yukon collected royalty payments on behalf of Selkirk First Nation under the Quartz Mining Act.
- Through a court Settlement Order, royalties owed to Selkirk First Nation were resolved by a payment of \$1.3 million USD and the retention of \$700,000 CAD previously paid to Selkirk directly by Minto Metals Corporation.
- Selkirk First Nation also received additional financial benefits under its net smelter royalty arrangement with Minto Mine's owner, Minto Metals Corp. There are still monies owed to Selkirk First Nation from this arrangement.
- Once the site went into receivership, former employees became able to access the federal government's Wage Earner Protection Program.

Session Briefing Note Minto Mine

#3
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon holds \$75.2 million in security through a combination of cash and a surety bond for the Minto mine, and we are using this funding to protect the environment and for remediation activities.
- Contracts to support this work include:
 - JDS Energy and Mining for interim water management – \$6.87 million (contract over)
 - Ensero Solutions for water monitoring – \$1.26 million
 - BQE Water for water treatment - \$1.94 million
 - Boreal Engineering Ltd. for site maintenance and underground remediation - \$11.6 million

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

May 1, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Regional Land Use
Planning**Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- We are advancing regional land use planning in collaboration with Yukon First Nations, communities and stakeholders.
- The Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are making progress on consensus discussions regarding a decision on the Dawson Recommended Regional Land Use Plan. These discussions are based on feedback heard during public consultation which concluded in December 2022. (See BN #1)
- We are meeting with Yukon First Nations to begin work on the four remaining regional land use plans and will advance planning in collaboration with our First Nations partners.
- We are at the pre-planning stage with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Kluane First Nation, Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Teslin Tlingit Council.

Additional response:

- We remain committed to the goals and priorities set out by the Yukon Forum Regional Land Use Planning Working Group to advance land use planning in a way that honours the Final Agreements.
- The Government of Yukon, the Government of Canada and the Council of Yukon First Nations are undertaking the 2024 Umbrella Final Agreement funding review. This is to ensure there is adequate funding to implement Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Regional Land Use Planning

Energy, Mines and Resources

- The Government of Yukon is exploring options to complete conformity checks for projects proposed in approved Regional Land Use Plan areas. We will collaborate with First Nations on a path forward.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations, the mining industry, and environmental stakeholders are interested in the status and progress of regional land use planning and the funding available for these processes.
- Questions have been raised regarding who will conduct conformity checks after plan approval.
- Stable funding for the Chapter 11 processes continues to be a concern for First Nations.

Background:

- The process to complete regional land use planning on the Traditional Territories of Yukon First Nations is defined in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements. These processes can involve the participation of multiple First Nations governments.
- The Final Agreements and the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* outline the continued responsibility of Regional Land Use Planning Commissions to conduct conformity checks for proposed projects in areas with approved land use plans.
- During the development of regional land use plans, planning commissions are funded through the Umbrella Final Agreement federal implementation funding.
- There are no Chapter 11 sub-regional or district planning processes underway in the Yukon. The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process. Rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun and the Government of Yukon. (See BN #80)

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Regional Land Use
Planning**Energy, Mines and
Resources**The Yukon Forum**

- The Yukon Forum is a quarterly meeting that takes place between Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon, that aims to build strong government-to-government relations.
- In accordance with the Yukon Forum's Joint Priority Action Plan, which identifies Chapter 11 land use planning as a priority, Yukon Forum leaders developed a strategic approach to restart and improve regional land use planning in the Yukon.
- The approach entails working together to implement four priority objectives:
 1. Set up commissions for success by examining the roles of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, planning commissions and the parties to a regional land use plan; review and agree on a broadly applicable process for regional land use planning; and review the information requirements of regional land use planning.
 2. Support several land use planning processes concurrently inside and outside of Chapter 11.
 3. Conduct a legislative review of First Nations' and Government of Yukon laws.
 4. Lead the 2019-2020 review of funding adequacy for regional land use planning under Chapter 11, which was completed in 2022.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

 Deputy Minister
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

#5
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is developing new minerals legislation and new public lands legislation in collaboration with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups.
- Made-in-Yukon legislation will improve our regulatory system, respect First Nations' relationships with the land, protect the environment and strengthen our economy.
- We greatly appreciate the important insights and perspectives that industry representatives, environmental organizations, and the public have provided as we work together on new minerals and new public lands legislation.

Additional response:

- We are actively working with First Nations partners to develop an agreed upon framework for a new minerals regime.
- In May 2023, we completed public engagement with meetings held throughout the territory and a What We Heard on new minerals legislation will be released once finalized.
- [Public engagement and consultation with Yukon First Nations on the new public lands legislation will begin in May 2024.](#)
- [Public engagement will run for 60 days and consultation will run for 90 days.](#)
- In-person meetings will occur in [most communities](#) and there will be an online survey.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The desire to see new minerals and public lands legislation developed has been a longstanding interest of Yukon First Nations governments stemming from commitments in the 2003 Devolution Transfer Agreement.

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Session Briefing Note

Successor Resource Legislation – Minerals and Public Lands

#5
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background: Minerals

- A Steering Committee for new minerals legislation which includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous groups was struck in September 2021.
- The Steering Committee worked to develop potential approaches for key policy issues from August 2021 to December 2022.
- This work formed the basis of a 90-day public engagement which concluded in early May 2023. A What We Heard report is tracking for release in Spring 2024.
- In the current phase, the Steering Committee is developing a recommended legislative framework which upholds Aboriginal and treaty rights, supports a viable and competitive industry, protects the environment, minimizes public liabilities, and ensures Yukon communities benefit from mineral activity.
- The Steering Committee is using the results of public engagement to inform its work.

Public Lands

- Work on new public lands legislation has been ongoing since 2020 and in Spring 2022, the Government of Yukon carried out First Nations consultation and public engagement to understand the views and interest for new lands legislation.
- In November 2022, a Steering Committee was established to direct legislative development that includes representatives of the Government of Yukon, Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations governments and transboundary Indigenous governments.
- [The Steering Committee has drafted a suite of potential approaches for each key policy issue and public engagement and consultation on the options opens in May 2024 for 60 days.](#)
- This work will lead to a modernized land regime that balances a wide range of interests and values, including the sale and lease of public land.

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Session Briefing Note
Successor Resource
Legislation – Minerals and
Public Lands

#5
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 26, 2024
Date approved

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Session Briefing Note

Michelle Creek Project

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon government is seeking a judicial review of the Michelle Creek mineral exploration project's assessment.
- The government depends on the environmental and socio-economic assessments of projects to make decisions on whether projects should proceed and what terms and conditions may be necessary.
- If there are flaws in the assessment process leading to the recommendation, the government cannot make a fully informed decision to accept, reject or vary the recommendation.

Additional response:

- We are committed to implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and advancing work on other regional land use plans.
- This work honours the Final Agreements of Yukon First Nations, helps reduce land use conflicts, and provides more certainty for industry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on the judicial review of the Michelle Creek mineral exploration project announced in May 2023.

Background:

- On December 16, 2022, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board recommended that the Michelle Creek Project not be allowed to proceed due to significant adverse environmental and socio-economic effects.
- The proposed Michelle Creek Project is a mineral exploration project on claims within the Peel Watershed region. The claims were staked and existed before the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan was approved in August 2019.

Session Briefing Note

Michelle Creek Project

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources

- This is the first mineral project proposed in an area with an approved Regional Land Use Plan under Chapter 11 of a Final Agreement that has undergone an environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.
- The Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan respects existing mineral claims and leases. It provides directions on mineral development and management of lands and resources in the Peel River watershed. (See BN #83)
- The proposed mineral exploration project overlaps several Landscape Management Units designated for conservation and development, increasing the complexity of analysis.
- During the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's evaluation of the Michelle Creek Project, two affected Yukon First Nations submitted comments that the proposed project did not conform to the approved regional land use plan; whereas the Yukon Land Use Planning Council submitted comments through its own analysis that the project did conform.
- On May 29, 2023, the Government of Yukon applied for a judicial review of the assessment of the Michelle Creek Project after several flaws were identified in the evaluation report, which impacted the government's ability to make an informed decision.
- The statute does not allow the government to have the evaluation report reconsidered except through a judicial review.
- The Michelle Creek Project is the first time that the Government of Yukon has requested a judicial review of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation for a project.

Approved by:

January 29, 2024

Deputy Minister

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 24, 2024
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note
BC Grid Intertie

EMR #7/YDC #10
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to a target of 97 per cent of electricity on the Yukon's main grid being generated from renewable sources; up from the 92 per cent it is today.
- The Yukon – British Columbia Grid Intertie project could allow the Yukon to maintain high levels of renewable energy over the long term. The project will be large and complex with infrastructure that crosses multiple traditional territories and provincial/territorial borders.
- By increasing the Yukon's renewable electricity supply we are supporting our ambitious electrification goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Yukon's largest emission sources: transportation, heating and mining.

Additional response:

- We are also looking at technical feasibility and options, potential cost and funding opportunities.
- Connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's electrical grid is a nation building opportunity that will advance arctic security; foster shared growth, prosperity, and reconciliation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use.
- Increasing power supply availability by connecting to British Columbia's electrical grid will also help facilitate sustainable critical mineral development in the Yukon that will support the global transition away from fossil fuels.

Session Briefing Note

BC Grid Intertie

EMR #7/YDC #10
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in what the Government of Yukon is doing to increase the Yukon's ability to generate energy from renewable sources.
-

Background:

- Work on the feasibility of the grid intertie project will require the completion of a new development plan with updated costing.
- In February an application was made to the Critical Mineral Infrastructure Fund requesting up to \$40 million over the next four years to support pre-feasibility and engagement for this project.
- In the coming weeks the department of Energy, Mines and Resources plans to release a request for proposals to a qualified firm for the purpose of completing the pre-conceptual design and revised cost estimates for the project. Results of this work are scheduled to be completed in 2025.
- At the March and September 2023 Yukon Forum meetings, leadership discussed the potential to connect the Yukon and British Columbia grids. This discussion represents the beginning of the government's collaboration on the project.
- The grid intertie project was also presented at the Yukon First Nations' Energy Summit in October 2023 and was discussed at the Regional Energy and Resource Table meetings in January and April 2024.
- In 2022, approximately 92 per cent of electricity on the main grid was obtained from renewable energy sources.
- Renewable electricity, especially hydroelectricity, accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the Yukon's total electricity generation in 2022.
- One of the new actions added to Our Clean Future includes a commitment to complete an updated development plan and alternatives analysis for the Yukon-British Columbia grid intertie project by the end of 2025.

Session Briefing Note
BC Grid Intertie

EMR #7/YDC #10
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- In 2019, Midgard Consulting produced the 'Yukon-British Columbia Interconnection Development Plan.' The report identified the project's objectives, a proposed development approach and a very preliminary cost estimate.

Approved by:

May 2, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

May 2, 2024

President and CEO
Yukon Development Corporation

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- Exploration and mining activities within community boundaries are subject to mineral development and environmental laws, official community plans, local area plans and zoning regulations.
- New mineral staking is prohibited within the City of Dawson and most of the City of Whitehorse. There are, however, existing mineral claims in these municipalities.
- Often claims were staked decades ago and predate nearby homes or staking prohibitions. In the Yukon, claims may be renewed yearly provided the claim holder complies with renewal requirements. This is the case with the claims at Cowley Creek. (See BN #2)

Additional response:

- We work with municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and affected communities to help resolve land use conflicts when they occur.
- We are developing information materials to help municipalities better understand what is available for managing exploration and mining in planned and zoned communities.
- Part of the work to develop successor resource legislation is to address issues of mining in planned and zoned communities through legislative change. (See BN #5)

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Communities have expressed concern over the conflicts in mineral development within community boundaries.
- There may be questions about the Gladiator Metals Ltd. activity areas near Cowley Creek. (See BN #2)
- There is currently a lawsuit that has been brought against the City of Dawson and the Government of Yukon by a placer claim holder, alleging a regulatory taking of their placer claims within the City of Dawson.

Background:

- In 2020 and 2022, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources led a targeted stakeholder engagement process to better understand perceived issues with mineral staking and development within the boundaries of Yukon municipalities and communities.
- Limited responses were received and so no What We Heard was published, however, the feedback received helped shape the information materials that will be provided to municipalities around existing tools to manage mining within their boundaries.
- Although there are pre-existing placer claims within some municipalities, the Placer Mining Act does not allow new placer claims within any of the Yukon's eight incorporated municipalities, including Dawson City and the City of Whitehorse.
- In summer 2022, the Government of Yukon extended a prohibition of entry order for the City of Whitehorse until July 2027, restricting quartz mineral staking within most areas. We made this decision at the request of the City of Whitehorse and in alignment with the City's Official Community Plan (Whitehorse 2040).
- In December 2023, the Government of Yukon renewed the prohibition of entry order within the City of Dawson's municipal limits. We made this decision in partnership with the City of Dawson and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Mining Activities in Yukon Communities

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The City of Dawson has several active mining operations that may conflict with community development interests. The municipality is doing its best to navigate these operations and the Government of Yukon is providing support as required.
- Gladiator Metals applied to do exploration work near the historical Arctic Chief mine within City of Whitehorse limits. The Government of Yukon has issued a Class 1 authorization for this work and the City of Whitehorse has issued a development permit. (See BN #2).
- The company's earlier exploration work in the Cowley Creek area attracted complaints and media attention. As a result of an investigation, the company was fined over \$43,000 in August 2023 for violating conditions of a Class 1 operation.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 15, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has completed its review of the Eagle Gold Mine's 2022 Reclamation and Closure Plan and issued an updated financial security determination for the mine. The Government of Yukon now holds \$103.7 million in financial security for the mine.
- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect this site to ensure compliance with licence terms and conditions. They have documented and addressed instances of the mine failing to meet its water storage requirements from October 2022 to October 2023.
- We are committed to ensuring that mining is conducted in an environmentally responsible way, in accordance with regulatory authorizations.

Additional response:

- We are aware of the tragic events at the Çöpler (pronounced “chirp-ler”) Gold Mine in eastern Turkey and send our condolences to all those impacted.
- There are significant differences between the Eagle and Çöpler mines and we remain confident that Victoria Gold's heap leach facility has been developed in accordance with Canadian and Yukon design standards and requirements for construction, operation, monitoring and inspections.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Victoria Gold's 2022 court filing regarding the Yukon Water Board's security determination and charges filed by the Government of Yukon regarding water management have drawn media attention. The court process is ongoing.
- A recent failure of a heap leach facility in Turkey has raised questions.

Session Briefing Note

Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

#9
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Eagle Gold Mine is a large conventional open pit and heap leach gold operation in north-central Yukon in the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Traditional Territory. Victoria Gold's Eagle mine is in its fifth year of production of an approximate nine-year mine life.
- Victoria Gold and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun signed a Comprehensive Cooperation and Benefits Agreement in 2011.
- The "Eagle Gold Mine Extension Project" has been submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board Executive Committee. Victoria Gold has responded to the Project Proposal Guidelines, and the response is now in a public review period (Phase 4 of the pre-submission engagement process).
- The Extension Project proposes to extend the mine's life to 15 years. It includes the development of a secondary heap leach facility, new Olive Deposit open pits, a new waste rock storage area and a production rate increase from 29,500 tonnes of ore per day to 50,000 tonnes of ore per day.
- There have been cyanide spills (six during 2021 and 2022) on-site.
- The site was last inspected in January 2024. Inspection reports are published on the Yukon Water Board's Waterline website.

Security

- The Government of Yukon now holds \$103.7 million in financial security for the Eagle Gold mine.
- Energy, Mines and Resources revised the required security determination based on the most recent update to the Reclamation and Closure Plan. The new total security of \$103.7 million was furnished on February 28, 2024.
- The Government of Yukon has provided the company with guidance terms and conditions for future surety bonds and has also required the company to provide a

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine**

Energy, Mines and Resources

Project Execution Plan to support the implementation of their reclamation and closure plan.

- Energy, Mines and Resources and the Yukon Water Board are conducting a second pilot project to review the 2022 Reclamation and Closure Plan and Security costing for the Eagle Gold Mine. The pilot project's current phase is for the Government of Yukon and Yukon Water Board to enter separate security determination processes.
- A security determination by the Yukon Water Board has not yet been made. Public commenting on the application began in February and the Yukon Water Board will consider comments received and issue a decision after that process.
- In June 2022, the Yukon Water Board issued a final security determination (based on the 2020 Reclamation and Closure Plan) for \$104.9 million to be furnished no later than September 15, 2022. On August 1, 2022, Victoria Gold sought leave to appeal the Yukon Water Board's decision on security to the Yukon Supreme Court.
- Victoria Gold was granted a stay by the Yukon Supreme Court and is not required to furnish the remaining Yukon Water Board security until 30 days after a decision on the appeal. The Court recently noted that the appeal would be heard in April 2024.

Turkey mine

- On February 13, 2024, a failure of the heap leach pad at the Çöpler mine dislodged 10 million cubic meters of earth across a 200-meter high slope. Nine mine workers remain unaccounted for.
- The Çöpler mine is an open pit gold mine approximately 550 km east of Ankara. It uses a heap leach process to recover gold.
- The key differences between the Çöpler mine and the Eagle mine are:
 - Heap leach location: the heap leach at Çöpler was constructed on the top of an exposed ridge, directly above an open pit. The heap leach at Eagle is contained in a valley, behind a dam engineered, constructed and operated to Canadian Dam Standards.

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Victoria Gold/Eagle Gold Mine

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- Nature of the ore: the material at Çöpler has a very high fines and clay content, making control of saturation and percolation rates much more challenging.
- Saturation: the heap leach at Eagle is operated at much lower saturation levels than the heap at Çöpler. Consequently, there is much less moisture retained in the heap at Eagle.

Approved by:

March 7, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The new *Animal Protection and Control Act* modernizes the Yukon's animal protection and control framework, specifying the responsibility of Yukoners to provide proper care for, and control of, the animals they own.
- The new Act regulates animal businesses and rescues and clarifies ownership of exotic pets. It creates tools to address feral and high-risk animal species to better protect Yukoners and the environment.
- The Act received assent in the fall 2022 session of the Legislative Assembly. Additional public engagement on the regulations occurred in summer 2023. The regulations have now been finalized and the Act is in force as of April 4, 2024.
- [A technical briefing took place on April 8 to review the requirements of the new Act and regulations, and to provide an overview of implementation.](#)
- [In addition, two information sessions were held on April 11th and 16th to provide stakeholders involved in the engagement on the new Act and regulations with an overview of implementation.](#)
- The Act and regulations were developed following extensive engagement and reflect Yukoners' values, our relationships with animals and our way of life.

Session Briefing Note

Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation

Environment and
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- A report on what we heard during engagement on the regulations was released in February.
- I would like to thank Yukoners for sharing their diverse and unique perspectives during the engagement. All feedback was carefully considered as we developed the regulations.

Additional response:

- There will be changes under the new legislation, and the first phase of implementation will be to share the details of these changes with affected individuals, groups and businesses. This is an extension of the conversations that took place during the engagement period.
- Targeted engagement has continued with stakeholders since the close of the formal public engagement period to gather further feedback and clarity on stakeholder input.
- Stakeholders emphasized that education and information sharing are the cornerstones of implementation. These priorities will be reflected in the enforcement approach, which is to first assist people to meet their obligations under the new law.
- We appreciate the interest and support from specialty stakeholder groups in the Yukon to help with training officers so that they will better understand the unique circumstances for care of animals such as sled dogs and horses used for outfitting.
- There are new permit and inspection requirements for animal-related businesses such as rescues, boarding facilities, and pet stores. These

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Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation

Environment and
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businesses will have a year to obtain their permits and staff of both departments will assist them to complete the permit process and arrange for the initial inspections.

- There are new opportunities for partnership agreements with Yukon First Nations and municipal governments to establish deputy enforcement officers and caretakers to deliver education and enforcement locally.
- We are committed to working with communities and governments interested in taking on animal protection and control enforcement roles to ensure that enforcement respects local values and priorities.

Third response:

- This legislation is shared between the Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources. Officers in the Agriculture Branch will respond to welfare and control concerns regarding livestock, and those in the Animal Health Unit will respond for other species.
- During our engagement on the regulations, similar to our engagement on the Act, there remained some concerned about the authority of officers. I want to reiterate that authority to enter a premises without a warrant is unchanged from the current legislation and is granted only to RCMP officers. It can only be exercised in urgent circumstances when all the criteria for gaining a warrant are met, but it is not feasible to take a request to a justice.

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Control Act
Implementation**Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- To ensure there are qualified and trained employees to meet the Act requirements, staff with essential qualifications will be appointed as Animal Protection and Control officers. In addition, caretaker authorities have been identified and will be put in place as required.
- Initially, the implementation will be resourced from existing departmental budgets, but this is a significantly enhanced legislative framework and additional resources will likely be required in future years.
- Recruitment is underway for a Program Manager (ENV) to oversee development, delivery and evaluation of new programs and agreements. In addition, one position will be dedicated for the first two years to the education, extension and networking required to ensure these new responsibilities are understood by everyone affected.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what the Government of Yukon heard during engagement with stakeholders and the public and how decisions were made when there were conflicting opinions.
- There may also be questions about the support available to assist Yukoners to comply with the Animal Protection and Control Act and regulations when they come into force.

Background:

- Initial conversations about the regulations began with some stakeholders soon after the Act was passed in the legislature. The formal process began in 2023.
- Invitations to engage on the regulations were sent in May 2023 to First Nations governments, Renewable Resources Councils, municipal governments, local advisory councils, and stakeholders including the agriculture industry, groups and

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organizations that work with animals, and local religious groups. Meetings were held at the convenience of respondents between May and October. Local religious groups did not respond.

- Public engagement took place between June and September 2023 and members of the public were invited to respond via email or participate in individual interviews with Government of Yukon staff.
- The What We Heard report outlines feedback received on the compliance and enforcement framework, permitting for commercial facilities, animal control, cosmetic surgeries, standards of care and ownership of animals.
- Eurasian boar was particularly emphasized in the feedback on ownership of animals. This included concerns around the risk of escape and potential for Eurasian Boar becoming established as a feral population.
- Under the new legislation, Eurasian boar are now prohibited and a high-risk species in Yukon. During consultation, there were two viewpoints on how to manage concerns relating to Eurasian Boar. One was to prohibit or ban Eurasian boar; the other was to manage through listing as high-risk species with strict containment standards throughout the whole supply chain.

Approved by:

April 18, 2024

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

April 18, 2024

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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Animal Protection and Control Act Implementation

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Record of Engagement on the Animal Protection and Control Act (Phase 1 and Phase 2 from 2018- 2023) (last updated October 4, 2023)

Summary:

Phase 1: The Department of Environment sent letters and follow-up emails to First Nations, communities, organizations, and other interested stakeholders. 10 public meetings were held, and a public survey was released. Formal meetings and correspondence recorded, informal discussions and ongoing correspondence not included.

Phase 2: The Department of Environment sent letters to the same stakeholders as in Phase 1 which included invitations to meet.

Detail:

Phase 1 Community Meetings

Community	Date (2018)	Time	Location
Carmacks	Monday, November 5	6:30-8:00pm	Carmacks Recreation Centre
Mayo	Thursday, November 8	6:30-8:00pm	Mayo Curling Rink Lounge
Teslin	Tuesday, November 13	6:00-8:00pm	Teslin RecPlex
Tagish	Wednesday, November 21	6:30-8:30pm	Tagish Community Centre
Pelly Crossing	Monday, November 26	4:00-6:00pm	Selkirk Old Community Hall
Dawson City	Tuesday, November 27	1:00-3:00 or 6:00-8:00	Downtown Hotel
Old Crow	Wednesday, November 28	6:00-8:00pm	Community Hall
Whitehorse	Monday, December 3	6:30-8:30pm	High Country Inn
Carcross	Tuesday, December 4	10:00-12:00pm	Carcross Learning Centre

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Phase 1 Engagement Summary (2018)

Who	Engagement	Date
Animal Protection Officer	Meeting	December 13, 2018
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and Community of Carmacks	Meeting	November 5, 2018
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	Meeting	November 14, 2018
Mayo community	Meeting	November 8, 2018
Teslin community	Meeting	November 13, 2018
Several dog team owners and dogsledders (Yukon Quest, Yukon Dog Mushing Association, etc.)	Meeting	November 15, 2018
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)	Correspondence (email)	
RCMP	Meeting	October 29, 2018
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Correspondence (letter)	July 23, 2018

Phase 2 Engagement Summary (2019)

All (First Nations, municipalities First Nations, municipalities, advisory groups, and stakeholders, etc.) received letters on August 5, 2019, with the 2018 engagement What We Heard attached, and invitation to meet.

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Who	Engagement	Date
Dog Musers incl.: Muktuk Adventures, Dog Powered Sports, Wilderness Tourism Association Yukon (Yukon Quest and Yukon Dog Musher's Association not in attendance)	Meeting	August 1, 2019
Kluane First Nation	Meeting	October 16, 2019
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	Correspondence (email)	August 28, 2019
Livestock Health and Wellness Subcommittee	Meetings	October 25, December 2, and December 7, 2019
RCMP	Correspondence (email)	August 30, 2019
Selkirk First Nation	Correspondence (letters/emails)	September 2019
Watson Lake	Meeting (and follow up email)	Nov 2019 (December 2, 2019)
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Meeting	October 22, 2019
Yukon Wildlife Preserve	Correspondence (email)	January 13, 2021
Dawson with Klondike Farmers Forum	Meetings	September 26 and December 10, 2019
Yukon Agricultural Association	Correspondence (letter)	September 19, 2019
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm	Correspondence (email)	October 17, 2019
Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee	Meetings	October 24, 2019; January 23, March 5, October 22 and December 10, 2020
Open public workshop on APCA for livestock	Workshop	November 14, 2019
Public Presentation on APCA for livestock	Presentation	November 20, 2019
Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee – Livestock Welfare Subcommittee	Meetings	December 2 and 12, 2019

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Phase 2 Engagement (2022-23)

Who	Engagement	Date
Yukon Muslim Society	Correspondence (phone)	October 20, 2022
Jewish Cultural Society	Correspondence (phone)	October 20, 2022
Humane Society Dawson	Meeting with executive and correspondence	October 21, 2022
Humane Society Yukon	Meeting with executive	October 24, 2022
Yukon Outfitters Association	Correspondence (phone)	October 25, 2022
Wilderness Tourism Association Yukon	Correspondence (phone)	October 25, 2022
Yukon Dog Mushers	Correspondence (phone)	October 25, 2022
Association of Yukon Communities	Correspondence (phone message)	October 31, 2022
Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY)	Correspondence	October 31, 2022
Community Advisor on behalf of Tagish Local Advisory Council	Email exchange, meeting booked Nov 10	October 31, 2022
Town of Watson Lake, Mayor Chris Irvine (3:20pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Yukon Agricultural Association – Carl Burgess, Executive Director (3:30pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Yukon Outfitters Association – Shawn Wassel, Executive Director (3:50pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Association of Yukon Communities – Ted Laking, President (4pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Dog Mushers Association – Mandy (4:15pm)	Left a message to call back	November 3, 2022
Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY) – Bart Bounds of Elemental Farm (4:20pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Dawson Humane Society	Elisha emailed earlier in day to offer to meet	November 3, 2022
Growers of Organic Food Yukon (GoOFY) – Brian Lendrum (4:30pm)	Left a message to call back	November 3, 2022
Yukon Agricultural Association – Cain Vangel (4 :31pm)	Correspondence (phone)	November 3, 2022
Wilderness Tourism Association Yukon	Correspondence (phone)	November 4, 2022
Tagish Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	November 10, 2022

Prepared for Ministers Clarke and Streicker
Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and
Resources

Date prepared: January 25, 2024
Last Updated: April 15, 2024
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Watson Lake Town Council	Attended meeting virtually	November 15, 2022
Yukon Dog Mushers Association – chair Mandy Johnson	Phone	November 21, 2022
Yukon Outfitters Association	Attended meeting	Dec 16, 2022
Faro Town Council	Attended meeting virtually	Jan 10, 2023
Haines Junction Town Council/CAFN Council	Attended meeting virtually	Jan 18, 2023
Agriculture Industry Advisory Council	Meeting	Jan 26, 2023
All-Paws Veterinary Clinic	Meeting	Jan 27, 2023
Mayo Town Council	Attended meeting virtually	Feb 1, 2023
Alpine Veterinary Clinic	Meeting	Feb 8, 2023
Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	Feb 8, 2023
Selkirk First Nation Community Safety Officer	Attended meeting	Feb 21, 2023
Humane Society Dawson	Meeting	Feb 22, 2023
Dawson City Bylaw Officer- Jalen Henry	Meeting	Feb 22, 2023
John Overell –Dawson Veterinarian	Meeting	Feb 22, 2023
Mount Lorne Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	April 11, 2023
Carcross Local Advisory Council	Attended meeting	April 20, 2023
City of Dawson Bylaw	Correspondence (email)	May 2, 2023
Carmacks RRC	Correspondence (email)	May 8, 2023
Shelley Cuthbert Rescue Organization	Correspondence (phone)	May 10, 2023
Tails and Trails Dog Hotel	Correspondence (Phone)	May 16, 2023
Major's Promise	Correspondence (Phone)	May 18, 2023
Yukon Dog Mushing Association	Meeting	May 17, 2023, and Aug 7, 2023
Dog Powered Sports	Meeting	June 5, 2023
Yukon Agricultural Association	Meeting	June 5, 2023
Humane Society Dawson	Meeting	June 8, 2023

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Game Growers of Yukon	Correspondence (email)	June 8, 2023
Gator's Ranch	Correspondence (email)	June 13, 2023
Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon	Meeting	June 14, 2023
Association of Yukon Communities (AYC)	Attended meeting virtually	June 17, 2023, and August 16, 2023
Village of Haines Junction	Attended meeting	June 28, 2023
Equine Association of Yukon	Meeting	June 28, 2023
Humane Society Yukon	Attended meeting	July 11, 2023
Stay and Play Dog Boarding Kennel	Meeting	July 14, 2023, and Aug 24, 2023
Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)	Correspondence (letter)	July 18, 2023
Laberge RRC	Attended meeting	July 20, 2023
Kluane First Nation	Meeting with council then public lunch meeting	July 26, 2023
Kluane Point Kennel	Met at Kennel	July 26, 2023
Village of Haines Junction	Attended meeting	June 28, 2023
Yukon Outfitters Association	Attended meeting virtually	July 28, 2023
Growers of Organic Food Yukon	Correspondence (email)	June 29, 2023
Teslin RRC	Correspondence (letter)	Aug 6, 2023
Dawson RRC	Correspondence (letter)	Sept 6, 2023
Yukon Agricultural Association	Meeting	August 18, 2023
Yukon Fish and Game Association	Meeting	August 24, 2023
Growers of Organic Food Yukon	Correspondence (email)	September 14, 2023
Duffy's Pets and Tanzilla Harness Supply	Correspondence (email)	September 28, 2023
Yukon Dog Mushing Association	Correspondence (letter)	September 28, 2023
Yukon Horse Packing Adventures	Correspondence (letter)	September 28, 2023

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**Animal Protection and
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Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation – Rodney D’Abramo Director of Policy Executive Office	Meeting	October 4, 2023
Klondike Farmers Forum	Correspondence (email)	Oct 10, 2023
Yukon Agricultural Association	Meeting	October 27, 2023

Note – targeted engagement continued beyond Phase 2

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Agricultural Land Development and Leases

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are increasing access to land for farming and exploring flexible options to increase the production of local food and the raising of livestock.
- We are working to make agricultural land more affordable and available to Yukoners through zoning, leasing, agreements for sale and developing new areas.
- Agricultural leases decrease barriers for those new to farming, support the expansion of current farming operations, and promote agricultural innovation.

Additional response:

- For the 2023 season, five small agricultural parcels were prepared and available to lease near Gentic Lane. One parcel was leased for the season, and the pilot provided valuable feedback on the operation of such parcels.
- The pilot is planned to be repeated in 2024 with increased advertising to continue to offer an innovative opportunity for Yukoners to grow and sell food.
- We continue to work with landowners on other lease opportunities to support agriculture use. For example, land was leased for pasturing sheep in the Hotsprings Road area.

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Spring 2024

Agricultural Land Development and Leases

Energy, Mines and
Resources**Context — this may be an issue because:**

- Demand is increasing for access to land that can support livestock, arable land to be cultivated for the purpose of growing crops and for flexible options to access farmland to increase local production.

Background:**Available Agricultural Land**

- Agricultural land development is being advanced in Haines Junction, Dawson City and Whitehorse areas. Lots remain available in Mayo.
- In 2023, we approved three agriculture land applications totaling 67.9 hectares and are currently assessing four applications totaling 95 hectares of additional agricultural land.
- In 2022, we approved four applications creating 74.8 hectares of additional agricultural land located near Haines Junction, Marsh Lake and Whitehorse.
- We conduct ongoing inspections to ensure requirements under Agreements for Sale, agricultural leases and grazing agreements are met.

Seasonal Leases and Agreements for Sale

- The agriculture lease program considers a wide range of agriculture activities to support many types of agriculture operations in the territory. These include livestock lease areas, grazing agreements and market garden leases.
- We are assessing lease and agreement for sale options for other planned agriculture areas in Haines Junction, Dawson City and Whitehorse.

Land Matching Initiative

- In 2022, the Agriculture Branch coordinated a pilot project to match farmers with under-utilized agricultural land in the Dawson City area.
- Through the pilot work, it was concluded that a non-government organization is best suited to manage and implement this type of program. The Agriculture Branch is currently gauging interest level in land-matching prior to pursuing a non-government organization to manage a land-matching initiative.

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**Agricultural Land Development
and Leases**

#13
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

February 28, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- It is important to sustain and balance Yukon’s elk populations for harvest and wildlife viewing opportunities, and to ensure that agricultural lands continue to produce local foods and crops.
- We have recently implemented a two-year pilot project to minimize elk impact on agricultural properties while maintaining elk on the landscape.
- The pilot project includes hiring a coordinator, creating a Limited Exclusion Zone to provide intensive deterrents for problem elk in the Takhini Valley, applying localized and range-scale herd management, supporting fencing options, implementing an elk radio-collaring program, and conducting a social survey.
- The Government of Yukon is providing funding of \$175,000 over two years to implement the plan.
- A Steering Committee with representation from the Government of Yukon, the Yukon Fish and Game Association and the Yukon Agricultural Association is implementing the plan as a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing a longstanding concern.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to addressing the ongoing issues related to elk and agricultural landowners in the Takhini Valley.
- We continue to review and implement actions to address damage caused to crops and farm infrastructure by the Takhini Elk Herd by increasing elk monitoring by deploying 20 radio-collars. The radio-collaring program will allow for better tracking of elk movement and greater accuracy for elk surveys to estimate population size.

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Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
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- Fencing projects for three agriculture properties have been completed, and there are ongoing discussions with interested agriculture property owners for future projects.
- In 2022, we introduced a new adaptive Wildlife Act permitting [process for elk in the Takhini Valley](#). This resulted in eight (8) additional adaptive permits available for hunting elk. [Adaptive permits restrict hunting of elk to bulls only and have 5-point antlers or less. Four \(4\) of the adaptive Wildlife Act permits were filled in 2022-23 season.](#)
- There are Permit Hunt Authorizations for two (2) permits for the Braeburn elk herd, and four (4) permits for the Takhini elk herd.
- During the 2022-2023 hunting season, [five \(5\) Permit Hunt Authorization hunters were successful. Two \(2\) in the Braeburn area and three \(3\) in the Takhini Valley.](#)
- [A total of nine \(9\) elk were harvested in the 2022-23 season.](#)
- In certain circumstances, landowners and farmers can apply for a permit to shoot elk damaging their properties. These permits are only used in specific cases where there are ongoing issues and damage, and where all other reasonable measures have been unsuccessful.

Third response:

- Since 2014, the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment have funded elk exclusion fencing and electric fencing.
- The use of the elk permit hunt, exclusion fencing, and electric fencing is reducing the number of complaints where elk have been persistent on farms. We will continue collaborating with affected landowners, farmers, interest groups, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management

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Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Board, and First Nations to find solutions and options to manage elk and support agricultural land use.

- The number of calls to the Conservation Officer Services Branch concerning elk-agriculture conflicts remains relatively low, with eleven complaints received in total since 2020.
- Since 2020, there have been two controlled kills (euthanized elk) by the Conservation Officer Services Branch and 14 elk mortalities due to traffic accidents.
- Any Yukoner experiencing a conflict with elk on their property can call the TIPP line at 1-800-661-0525 to report the issue to our Conservation Officers.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Takhini Valley farmers may seek an update on government actions to address the conflict between the wild elk population and agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley.
- There may be questions about how the Government of Yukon works with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Agricultural Association to address the conflict.

Background:

- In 2022, a focus group was formed to identify options for the Takhini Elk Herd. The focus group was comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agricultural Association, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon Fish and Game Association, First Nations, and the departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Environment.
- The objective was to develop a two-year pilot program aimed at effectively regulating the elk population to reduce harm to agricultural lands and infrastructure.

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Elk–Agriculture Management

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In May 2023, following focus group recommendations, the Elk-Agricultural Steering Committee was established and tasked with implementing a two-year action plan.
- The Elk-Agricultural Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the Yukon Agricultural Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in an observer capacity. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation are not active participants on the Committee but are kept informed of its implementation work.
- [The Steering Committee hired a Coordinator in March 2024 to work with property owners and hunters to address elk on farms. This includes proactive measures to deter elk from properties and responding when elk are present.](#)
- Since 2014, the Government of Yukon has provided funding to compensate farmers for elk damage and funding to install exclusion fencing.
 - Between 2014 and 2023, there has been \$195,665.05 paid in compensation for elk damage to farms. In 2023, there were no applications for compensation claims.
 - Between 2014 and 2020, there was \$200,914 provided for elk exclusion fencing projects.
 - In 2021, the Government of Yukon established an additional funding program for farmers to install elk exclusion fencing on agricultural properties in the Takhini Valley eastern buffer zone. To date, \$289,576 of funding has been allocated for nine fencing projects under this program.

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Session Briefing Note

Elk–Agriculture Management

ENV #55 / EMR #14
Spring 2024

Environment and
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

April 23, 2024

Deputy Minister, Environment

Date approved

Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources

April 18, 2024

Date approved

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Recommended response:

- Like other regions across Canada, the Yukon's agriculture sector has faced challenges in recent years related to increasing input costs, supply chain challenges, labour shortages, and impacts of climate change.
- Under the five-year \$9.25 million Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, we enable agriculture and agri-food development projects that range from farm business plans and research initiatives to infrastructure development and equipment purchases.
- The Government of Yukon is also supporting the recovery process for farms in the Klondike Valley and the Klondike area after the severe spring flooding of 2023.

Additional response:

- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program is an investment in the Yukon's agriculture industry to support our farmers and increase our capacity for local food production. Since its April 2023 launch, the program has approved over \$1 million in funding for over 50 local projects.
- The program includes funding for Best Management Practices that can help to build environmental resiliency, improve on-farm energy efficiency, and support climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Other government funding programs also provide support to the agriculture sector in the Yukon, such as the Department of Economic Development's Economic Development Fund and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The agriculture industry has faced challenges in recent years and may be looking to the Government of Yukon to provide additional support in response to pressures such as labour shortages, sharp increases in input costs and supply chain challenges.
- There may be questions about how the Government of Yukon is supporting farmers affected by the Klondike River Flood.

Background:

- Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy commits the Government of Yukon to partnering with the Government of Canada to support and administer federal-provincial-territorial agricultural funding programs in the territory.
- Since 2003, five federal-provincial-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding programs have been implemented in the Yukon. The funding is cost-shared on a 60:40 ratio between the governments of Canada and Yukon, respectively.
- From 2018 to 2023, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program provided \$1.48 million per year in funding, for a total of \$7.4 million over five years, for the development of agriculture in the Yukon.
- Over the five years of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, funding supported nearly 500 diverse agriculture projects across the Yukon - from community gardens and farmers' markets to building farm infrastructure, purchasing specialized equipment, developing farm business plans and supporting farm labour.
- The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP) program replaced the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program on April 1, 2023.
- The S-CAP program will provide \$9.25 million in sector support over five years (2023-2028) for agriculture and agri-food development projects that range from farm business plans, research initiatives, development of infrastructure and purchasing of equipment, and practices to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- The Government of Yukon engaged with First Nations and industry to ensure their

Session Briefing Note

Agriculture Sector Status and Supports

#15
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

feedback was reflected in the S-CAP program.

- The Klondike River flood in spring 2023 caused damage to a number of farms, businesses and homes. The Agriculture Flood Recovery Funding Program is a one-time program for farmers and agricultural producers. It covers costs from the damage and loss caused by 2023 flooding in the region around Klondike Valley.
- We are aware of one farmer whose Klondike agricultural property was significantly damaged in the flood. We have been and continue to work with this property owner on options for damage recovery.

Approved by:

February 28, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Year-Round Abattoir Availability

#16
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is ensuring that farmers have access to the infrastructure they need to slaughter livestock for retail sale.
- Two privately-owned abattoirs are currently operating and providing inspected slaughter services for the Yukon's poultry and red meat livestock producers.
- Our mobile abattoir was available during the summer 2023 season when the demand exceeded the private abattoirs' capacity. It also supported game farm species slaughter when it was challenging to transport live game farm species off-farm.

Additional response:

- As our agriculture industry is growing and changing, our ongoing work with the industry is vital to supporting more food production in the Yukon.
- We support private abattoirs through meat inspections, funding, training and the Livestock Health Program.
- We will continue to monitor livestock production and abattoir needs across the territory to ensure Yukon livestock producers are well-served by our available resources.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions on year-round abattoir availability in the territory and how Yukon's livestock producers' slaughter needs are being met.

Session Briefing Note

Year-Round Abattoir Availability

#16
Spring 2024
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Background:

- The Government of Yukon purchased and placed a mobile abattoir into operation in 2006. The service allowed farmers to sell inspected red meat.
- In April 2022, Yukon Born and Raised Meats closed the Yukon's only year-round abattoir. The evolving livestock industry of the territory requires year-round abattoir services.
- During winter 2022/23, the Government of Yukon's mobile abattoir was located at Horse Haven Ranch inside a heated building and was available to meet winter slaughter needs while private industry developed year-round facilities. The private sector now operates year-round, offering slaughter services to livestock producers.
- There are two private abattoirs in the Yukon offering services to livestock producers:
 - The Farm Gate abattoir (M'Clintock Valley, Marsh Lake) is the Yukon's only poultry abattoir. It received its red meat slaughter license in October 2022. Both services are available to the public.
 - Takhini Valley Meats (Mendenhall) began operating for red meat slaughter in September 2023. Its abattoir is available to the public.
- There are two other abattoirs in Yukon:
 - Can Do Farms purchased a new mobile abattoir. It currently is not available to the public.
 - Takhini River Ranch operates a private abattoir used to slaughter and process animals raised on its own farm. It is not available to the public.
- The Agriculture Branch provided two separate training sessions on abattoir operation in April 2023 and July 2023 for private abattoir businesses. The Farm Gate, Can Do Farms and Takhini Valley Meats all attended the courses. The attendees provided positive feedback on delivery and content.
- Future training sessions will be offered based on need.

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Year-Round Abattoir Availability

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- The Farm Gate received funding under the Internship Program of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Fund in 2022/23 to support its expansion into red meat slaughter services. The Internship Program provides funding for employee wages to develop skills and gain on-the-job experience.
- As part of a long-term plan for Yukon producers to transition towards privately owned abattoirs for their slaughter needs, in late spring 2023, the Government of Yukon started reducing access to its mobile abattoir.
- Transitioning to privately-owned abattoirs is one way to promote the growth and sustainability of our agriculture sector. Stable and reliable local meat processing and packing businesses are necessary to ensure meat from inspected slaughter at these abattoirs can reach the plates of Yukoners.
- In 2023, the Agriculture Branch began assessing and establishing inspected abattoir and meat processing facilities in the Klondike Valley.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
YG Local Food Purchases

Energy, Mines and
Resources
and Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response:

- In 2021 we launched the Local Food Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA). Since then, the Government of Yukon grocery purchasers have supported local farmers and food producers by committing to purchase locally grown products.
- The Government of Yukon also purchases local products directly through retailers and catering services.
- The Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works are working together to find more ways to procure local food.

Additional response:

- The current Local Food Standing Offer Arrangement [is being reviewed now. The Government of Yukon is exploring options to increase Government of Yukon purchases.](#)
- We are reaching out to farmers and food producers to better understand their perspective and explore other procurement options.
- We are working with local food producers and institutional and program services to address supply challenges and make purchasing easier.
- In addition to the Standing Offer Agreement, the Departments of Justice and Community Services have draw-down contracts with local

Session Briefing Note
YG Local Food Purchases

Energy, Mines and
Resources
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food sellers, such as Stacey's Butcher Block and ColdAcre Food Systems.

- The Departments of Highways and Public Works and Community Services include local food preferences in the catering contracts issued for camp food services.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Local farmers and food producers recognize the Government of Yukon as a major food purchaser in the territory and may wish to see improved options to support increased government purchase of local food.

Background:

- The Local Food Standing Offer Arrangement is a multi-departmental effort to increase the use of locally produced foods in government-run facilities, to support local farms and other Yukon food producers and keep money in the territory.
- Increasing government purchase of local food aligns with the vision and objectives of Cultivating Our Future: 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy; actions identified in the Our Clean Future strategy; and was identified as a key priority in the 2016-2021 Local Food Strategy for Yukon.
- Through a publicly advertised tender, the Government of Yukon contracted with Takhini River Ranch in 2021 to create a government ordering portal through their existing website. This portal allows any Government of Yukon facility to order from participating Yukon food producers.
- Following the launch of the Standing Offer Agreement, the Government of Yukon departments ordering food were identified and contacted to introduce them to the Standing Offer Agreement, set up accounts and walk them through the new ordering process.

Session Briefing Note
YG Local Food Purchases

Energy, Mines and
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- The Departments of Health and Social Services and Education have draw-down contracts with Takhini River Ranch under the local food Standing Offer Arrangement.
- Two Whitehorse continuing care centres and one Whitehorse student residence have ordered through the Standing Offer Agreement.
- The 2021 SOA set expectations with the following estimate in the tender "...the total spend for the period of the SOA will be a maximum of \$1,000,000.00, with \$200,000.00 estimated for each year. This is an estimate only, and there is no guarantee of spend for the term of the SOA."
- To date, the Government of Yukon has committed over \$325,000 in purchases under the Standing Offer Agreement, with eggs and meat making up most of sales to date.
 - 2021-22 – Health \$125,000; Education \$10,000
 - 2022-23 – Health \$115,000
 - 2023-24 – Health \$65,000
- Total spending related to this Standing Offer Agreement (estimated):
 - Year 1 (2021-22): \$44,026.88
 - Year 2 (2022-23): \$51,195.46
 - Year 3 (2023-24): \$27,546.40
 - **Total: \$122,768.74**
- The Government of Yukon spends approximately \$3,000,000 per year on food.
- The Government of Yukon food purchasers surveyed in March 2022 reported that issues limiting the use of the local Standing Offer Agreement include budget

Session Briefing Note
YG Local Food Purchases

concerns, limited selection of local food, and a preference to use one ordering tool for simplicity.

Approved by:

May 2, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

April 12, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Highways and Public Works

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Faro Mine and Transition Agreement

#21
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Canada is leading all aspects of the Faro Mine Remediation Project, including urgent remedial works.
- We acknowledge the terms and conditions included in YESAB's recent draft screening report for the remediation project, and note that the Government of Yukon is working towards legislating a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for post-production reclamation activities, including reclamation for abandoned mines, under the Clean Energy Act.
- Governance at the site is being streamlined with the passing of federal Bill C-47 and subsequent territorial legislation, which allows Canada to directly carry out activities intended to prevent, counteract, mitigate or remedy any adverse effect on persons, property or the environment.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring project benefits from the Faro Mine Remediation Project are being realized by Yukon First Nations and communities.
- The Government of Yukon participates in the project's governance and provides oversight on the progress towards remediation

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in ensuring local contractors and communities benefit from the work at the Faro mine site.

Background:

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Faro Mine and Transition Agreement

#21
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Resources

- In 2020, the Governments of Canada and Yukon signed a Transition Agreement that amended the roles and responsibilities of the Faro Mine Remediation Project.
- Both governments have also entered into agreements with Selkirk First Nation and Ross River Dena Council in support of the transition.
- The Transition Agreement allowed the Government of Canada to lead the Faro Mine Remediation Project and take full responsibility for protecting the environment and human health and safety.
- The Transition Agreement was finalized after the Governments of Canada and Yukon completed consultations.
- The Faro Mine Remediation Project is currently undergoing environmental assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. Canada submitted its Project Proposal in March 2019. The YESAB draft screening report has been released and participants have until April 19, 2024, to submit comments on the report.
- In 2018, the Government of Yukon delegated its authority under Section 37 of the Yukon Waters Act to the Government of Canada on an interim basis. The Minister of Environment was responsible for determining if actions taken at the site are reasonable to protect the environment under Section 37.
- On June 22, 2023, Canada passed Bill C-47 which included a provision giving the Government of Canada powers akin to Section 37 of the Yukon Waters Act. This amendment is a major milestone in transitioning administration and control of the Faro Mine site from the Yukon to the Government of Canada, a process that started in 2018.

Approved by:

March 5, 2024

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Type II Sites

#22
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon continues to work closely with the Government of Canada in managing Type II abandoned mine sites.
- Approaches taken to clean up Type II mines are specific to the unique environmental issues at each site and the interests of affected First Nations and communities.
- The Governments of Canada and Yukon are negotiating changes to roles and responsibilities for the Ketza River and Clinton Creek mines to transfer responsibilities from the Yukon to Canada.

Additional response:

- In managing Type II sites, we balance environmental protection with opportunities to strengthen and diversify our economy.
- We are collaborating with affected First Nations and communities to ensure remediation approaches recognize the specific needs and interests of those most impacted.
- We support local solutions to remedial efforts wherever possible.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the approaches and timelines to address historic liabilities at Type II sites.

Background:

- Under the Devolution Transfer Agreement, Canada holds financial responsibility for pre-devolution liabilities on mine sites commonly referred to as Type II sites.
- Yukon Type II sites include Clinton Creek, Mount Nansen, Ketza River, Keno Hill (See BN #89) and Faro (See BN #21).

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Type II Sites

Energy, Mines and Resources

- In August 2023, the Governments of Canada and Yukon informed affected First Nations (Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Dease River First Nation, Kwadacha Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) that they were entering into negotiations to adjust roles and responsibilities for the Ketza River and Clinton Creek mine sites by transferring some responsibilities from the Yukon government to Canada.
- The intent of these negotiations is to reach an agreement like the one in place for the Faro mine that sees the planning and execution of work at the sites carried out by the Government of Canada. (See BN #21)
- A successful agreement would be contingent on endorsement by affected First Nations, and transition is anticipated to occur during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- At present, the Governments of Canada and Yukon undertake various approaches to remediate Type II sites as outlined in the table below:

Roles and Responsibilities at Type II Sites

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Mount Nansen	Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be executed by the Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership.	Government of Canada
Clinton Creek	Government of Yukon (with the anticipation of transitioning to Government of Canada April 1, 2024)	Remediation planning	Government of Canada
Ketza River	Government of Yukon (with the anticipation of transitioning to Government of Canada April 1, 2024)	Remediation planning	Government of Yukon; a large part of the costs will be recovered from Canada.
Keno	Elsa Reclamation and Development Company	Remediation planning is complete; remediation will be by Elsa Reclamation and Development Company.	Government of Canada

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Type II Sites

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Resources

Site	Lead Organization	Remediation	Funding
Faro	Government of Canada	Remediation planning is complete; the remediation project is undergoing environmental assessment with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.	Government of Canada

Approved by:

January 29, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Vangorda Sale

#23
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to examine ways to address the historic liabilities at the Vangorda Plateau portion of the Faro Mine site in partnership with the Government of Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Broden Mining.
- The Government of Canada has placed a reconciliation focus on this work and advanced the proposed sale approach of the Vangorda Plateau in recognition of the significant impacts of the Faro Mine on the Kaska people.
- This partnership is an opportunity for responsible mining in a brownfield area to offer significant benefits to Ross River and nearby communities.

Additional response:

- Prior to concluding a sale process and the subsequent transfer of the Vangorda area to the Ross River Dena Council's Tse Zul Development Corporation, an agreement with affected First Nations and approval from the courts will be required.
- We continue to participate in discussions on this opportunity with affected First Nations, and these discussions are ongoing.
- We are ensuring that no unsecured historic liabilities are transferred to the Government of Yukon. Any mining activities will be subject to the Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of the Vangorda sale process and what if any, legislative tools are required to secure expired claims in the area for transfer to new owners.

Session Briefing Note

Vangorda Sale

#23
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- All affected parties agreed to a remediation approach for the Faro Mine site in 2009 with an understanding that long-term care and maintenance would be required for hundreds of years. The liability associated with the site has increased significantly from initial estimates made in 2003.
- Any transfer of the Vangorda area would require agreement from affected First Nations as per the Devolution Transfer Agreement, and approval from the courts. Ross River Dena Council, Liard First Nation, Kaska Dena Council and Selkirk First Nation are identified as affected First Nations in the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- Section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement provides alternative approaches to governing and managing work at Type II mine sites, provided Yukon, Canada and affected First Nations governments agree.
- An alternate agreement under section 6.64 of the Devolution Transfer Agreement is being sought with Selkirk First Nation, the only affected First Nation that is a signatory to the Devolution Transfer Agreement.
- The Governments of Canada and Yukon are working collaboratively on a survey of the Faro and Vangorda properties. Finalizing the dividing survey line between properties is a key step in this process.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Wolverine Mine

#24
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon remains committed to the reclamation and closure of the Wolverine Mine.
- Following an open and public tender in 2022/23, we awarded a multi-year contract to an experienced local business, which ensures we continue to protect the environment and human health and safety at the site.
- Since 2018, the Government of Yukon has spent approximately \$42 million on activities required at the site.

Additional response:

- We continue to protect the environment and human health and safety at the site while remediation planning advances. This work includes water management and treatment, and environmental monitoring.
- Our next step at Wolverine will be to engage with the Kaska First Nations to develop final reclamation and closure objectives for the site, and to update the remediation and closure plan accordingly.
- Following the sale process conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers that did not identify a successful purchaser, we have no plans to put the mine up for sale again.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in the activities, expenditures and remediation approach at the Wolverine site.

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Wolverine Mine

#24
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Wolverine Mine went into temporary closure in January 2015. The owner, Yukon Zinc Corporation, went into bankruptcy proceedings shortly thereafter.
- On September 13, 2019, the Yukon Supreme Court appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the receiver of the Wolverine Mine site.
- Until November 1, 2022, the receiver was responsible for the care and maintenance of the site and for complying with regulatory authorizations and applicable statutes. The Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for the site on November 1, 2022.
- Of the \$42 million spent at the site to date, \$10.5 million was recoverable through the financial security posted by Yukon Zinc Corporation.
- Natural Resource Officers inspect the site regularly to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety.
- In July 2023, Welichem, owner of most of the assets on the site, sold the largest share of its mine assets to NorZinc. NorZinc is planning for the removal of the mill and associated equipment.
- Ross River Dena Council has recently expressed its interest in participating in the closure and remediation process. Energy, Mines and Resources is finalizing resources to support this interest.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

February 28, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The carbon levy and rebate system aims to incentivize individuals and businesses to innovate and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Government of Yukon's carbon rebate ensures that all federal carbon levies are returned to Yukoners.
- The Government of Yukon simplified the rebate process for small mining businesses so they will receive the carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns. This means mining businesses no longer need to make a separate application for the rebate.

Additional response:

- We are developing a new rebate under the federal Output-Based Pricing System that will return carbon levies collected from larger quartz mines to the mining industry. (See BN #50)
- In fall 2022, we engaged with the mineral industry to develop a new carbon rebate for larger quartz mining operations subject to the federal Output-Based Pricing System. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.
- In 2024, the Government of Yukon will determine how levies collected through the Output-Based Pricing System will be returned to the mining industry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the rollout of the new carbon rebate for mining companies.

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Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate – Mining Businesses

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (2018) introduced a carbon levy in the Yukon.
- The federal Output-Based Pricing System creates a carbon pricing signal for large industrial emitters while mitigating the risks of carbon leakage for trade-exposed industries.

Carbon Rebate update for Mining Businesses

- Yukon's Bill 21, the *Carbon Price Rebate Amendments Act*, received assent on October 24, 2022 and created a new mining rebate that enables mining businesses to receive their carbon rebate as a refundable credit on their tax returns effective January 1, 2023.
- The new mining rebate provides tax credits based on the value of eligible Yukon mining assets.
- Placer miners have higher emissions per dollar of assets compared to quartz because of inherent differences in scale and operations. Consequently, the new mining rebate applies an adjustment factor to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amount.
- For 2024-25, quartz mines will receive \$36.47 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets, while placer mining operations will receive \$72.94.
- Clean technology assets that reduce fossil fuel consumption (e.g., electric vehicles) eligible for the Super Green Credit will receive a higher tax credit. The credit for clean technology assets is \$111.00 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for quartz-mining operations and \$222.00 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets for placer-mining operations.
- The pre-2023 mining rebate provided:
 - 100 per cent of carbon levies paid for production on eligible placer-mining claims; and
 - 100 per cent of the carbon levy paid on the first 6 kilotonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for quartz-mining operations and 50 per cent of the carbon levy paid on greenhouse gas emissions between 6 and 10 kilot

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Resources

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved**TOC**

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Rebate**Finance

Recommended response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue neutral, over time. We are committed to both reducing carbon emissions in the territory and, equally, to returning all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
- We remain committed to ensuring that the five rebate groups continue to receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing. Of the total carbon revenue collected in Yukon, we are distributing 45 per cent towards individuals, 36 per cent towards general businesses, 12 per cent towards mining businesses, 3.5 per cent to both First Nations and municipal governments.

Additional response:

- Our government continues to stand by carbon pricing as sound, evidence-based policy on climate change, but we share concerns about equity; specifically, for those Yukoners who do not use heating oil for their homes.
- The policies in Our Clean Future, as well as the carbon price, are intended to incentivize Yukoners to make the switch to low carbon energy sources, like electric heating or heat pumps. Despite this change to the federal carbon levy, Yukoners continue to lead the way to support this low carbon transition.

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

Third response (see relevant subsection below):

Surplus in Business Account

- As of March 31, 2023, there is a \$20.5 million surplus in the business account that represents the timing difference between when Canada pays the Yukon government its carbon proceeds, and when Canada settles the final amount of payments made on our behalf to businesses.
- The Department of Finance's indicates that the amount paid to businesses in calendar year 2022 is \$21.8 million which at the time of Public Accounts was \$18.7 million. The \$21.8 million will be debited to the revolving fund in late March, 2024, when the Yukon and Canada reconcile amounts outstanding for the 2022 taxation year in a process called the final determination.
- The business rebate account is credited when we receive money from Canada from the carbon fuel charge. This usually takes three to six months after the fuel charge is "paid at the pumps."
- Businesses are being paid promptly all through the year, however, the government's business rebate account is not debited until we reconcile with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for rebates made to these businesses. This process is typically completed 15 months after a tax year is closed.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Rebate**

Finance

-
- From the inception of the carbon fund in 2019 to March 31, 2023, the government has received \$31.6 million in proceeds received from Canada. By the end of the last fiscal year, this money has almost all been disbursed to businesses. However, we have closed the books on only \$11.1 million in payments with CRA as we wait for the previously mentioned reconciliation period.
 - This leaves a balance of \$20.5 million, which is what is reflected in the 2022-23 Public Accounts. That balance consists mainly of estimates of amounts paid to businesses for tax year 2022, which still needs to be reconciled with CRA. There is also a small portion related to both the 2021 and 2023 tax years.

Rebate for individuals

- The rebate amount for individuals for the current 2023-24 rebate year is \$372, or \$93 per quarter. The rebate amount for 2024-25 rebate is \$310, or \$77.50 per quarter. This \$62 decrease is a result of the federal announcement to temporarily exempt heating oil from the carbon levy, which will lead to reduced proceeds from Canada.
- Yukoners living outside of Whitehorse receive an additional supplement of 10 per cent, or \$37.20 during the current rebate year, rising to 20 per cent or \$62.00, beginning in July, 2024.
- One person per household will receive the rebate for all individuals. Payment is made to the first individual who files their tax.

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Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Rebate for general businesses (other than mining)

- Yukon businesses receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit. As with some other tax credits, businesses can apply retroactively for past tax years.
- The business rebate for 2023-24 is \$21.89 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets. The business rebate for 2024-25 is \$22.20 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon assets.
- The rebate is calculated based on the value of business assets and includes incentives to invest in clean technology.
- For 2023-24, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets, which includes eligible solar energy systems, electric vehicles, and charging systems. For 2024-25, the Super Green Credit provides a rebate of about \$111 per \$1,000.

Rebate for mining businesses

- As of 2023, there is a new mining business rebate structured the same way as the general business rebate. Mining businesses now receive their carbon rebate as a refundable tax credit on their tax returns.
- The mining business rebate for 2023-24 is \$21.08 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit will be eligible for a rebate of about \$109 per \$1,000 of clean technology assets. Recognizing the difference in capital intensity between different mining operations, additional weight is applied to placer mining assets to increase their rebate amounts.

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

- The mining business rebate for 2024-25 is \$36.57 per \$1,000 of eligible Yukon mining assets. Mining assets eligible for the Super Green Credit will be eligible for a rebate of about \$111 per \$1,000 of asset costs.

Agriculture

- The federal government determines who is exempt from paying the carbon levy. The federal government made the decision to exempt this group to avoid increasing the cost of food for all Canadians.
- Farmers are exempt from paying the federal carbon levy on gasoline and light fuel oil used in farming operations, using a federal definition of farming activities. The exemption is determined following the submission of Federal Tax Form K402, also titled the Carbon levy Exemption Certificate for Farmers.
- Farmers who buy non-exempt fuel for ancillary purposes can claim the Yukon business carbon rebate on their tax return.

First Nations governments

- Each year, on March 31st, the Government of Yukon estimates the share of carbon levies paid by each eligible rebate group to assess if they are still expected to receive more in rebates than they are expected to pay in levies.
- The allocation that each First Nations government receives is based on the formula in Chapter 19 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. (See Annex)

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Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Municipal governments

- Municipal governments receive carbon rebates on April 1st, each year.
- The percentage that each municipal government receives is outlined in the *Carbon Price Rebate General Regulation*. (See Annex)

Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS)

- We continue to work with the federal government during the implementation of the OBPS.
- The OBPS is a method of carbon pricing designed to support emission intensive trade exposed industry. It is intended to avoid carbon leakage. Carbon leakage refers to the situation where businesses transfer production to other countries with laxer emission constraints to avoid carbon pricing. This can lead to increased emissions.
- Industrial facilities that are registered under the OBPS will be able to purchase charge-free fuel from the time the charge starts to apply. OBPS facilities will instead be subject to the carbon price on the portion of their emissions that exceed an annual output-based emissions limit.
- From August 17 through October 3, 2022 we engaged the mining industry on the development of a new carbon rebate for facilities that may be subject to the OBPS. The engagement occurred alongside Energy Mines and Resources' consultation on the development of intensity-based emissions targets for the mining sector.
- A 'What We Heard' Report was published in June 2023 outlining feedback from nine stakeholders who participated in the

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

engagement. The Government of Yukon is considering this in the development of an OBPS rebate program.

- In the Yukon, the only facilities that may meet the OBPS thresholds for voluntary participation (10 kilotonnes) or mandatory participation (50 kilotonnes) are quartz mines. There is currently only one facility registered in the OBPS in the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Instead of a forecast surplus of \$6 million, the 2022-23 Public Accounts shows a surplus of \$25 million in the Carbon Rebate Revolving Fund, primarily due to a surplus in the business account.
- On October 26, 2023 Canada announced a pause on the carbon fuel charge for heating oil until April 1, 2027. Canada also announced a permanent change to the rural supplement for their Climate Action Incentive Payments (CAIP) from 10% to 20% of the base amount as of April 2024. The CAIP does not apply in Yukon, however Yukon mirrored this change for The Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate, effective July 2024.

Background:

- The federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act received royal assent on June 21, 2018. The federal carbon pollution pricing system has two parts:
 - a regulatory charge on fossil fuels (i.e., the carbon levy or fuel charge), and
 - a regulatory trading system for large facilities (i.e., the federal OBPS).

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

- Pricing carbon pollution is a central pillar of Canada's efforts to address climate change through the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* (PCF).
- The federal government's climate plan set the Canada-wide carbon price at \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions beginning in 2019, rising by \$10 per tonne per year on April 1, up to \$50 per tonne in 2022. Beginning in 2023, the federal carbon levy will rise \$15 a year to \$170 per tonne in 2030.
- In designing rebate programs, the Government of Yukon considered how to address the principles established in the *Pan-Canadian Framework*, namely:
 - "Carbon pricing policies should include revenue recycling to avoid a disproportionate burden on vulnerable groups and Indigenous peoples", and
 - "Carbon pricing policies should minimize competitiveness impacts and carbon leakage, particularly for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed sectors."

Illustrative example of family impacts

- As an example, a family of four in Mayo can expect to receive \$1,488.00 in rebates for the 12 months beginning in July 2024. This compares to the following outlays:
 - If we assume that this family has two pick-up trucks that each consumes 2,000 litres of gasoline on average per year; then the family should be expected to pay roughly \$735 in carbon pricing levies. This would leave them approximately \$753 ahead, assuming they heat by wood, electricity, or heating oil.
 - Since the federal heating exemption does not apply to propane, some families will incur additional costs. The average 3-bedroom detached home consumes about 3,000 litres of propane. They would be expected to incur roughly \$390 in carbon pricing costs to heat their home. Added to the \$735 in costs for our family with two trucks and the family is still approximately \$363 ahead.

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Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO), Distributional Analysis of Federal Carbon Pricing under A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy, March 2022 report

- On March 30, 2023, the PBO released an analysis of the impacts of the implementation of the Federal Fuel Charge in the seven provinces where the Climate Action Incentive payments are used in recycling carbon pricing.
- The report outlines both direct “fiscal” and “economic” impacts on households.
- Overall, in 2030-31, 80 per cent of households will receive more on the rebate than they pay on the fuel charge and associated GST. This is generally in line with how the Yukon rebate program works.
- Relative to household disposable income, the fiscal-only impact of the federal fuel charge is shown as progressive, with lower-income households facing lower net costs (or larger net gains) compared to higher income households.
- When the economic impact is combined with the fiscal impact, the net cost increases for all households, reflecting the overall negative economic impact of the federal fuel charge. Estimates across the participating provinces show a net loss for almost three-quarters of all the households.
- The Yukon and Nunavut were excluded from the analysis as we have our own rebate programs. The Yukon program is different than the federal program in that we provide a rebate to businesses to reduce the economic impact seen in the provinces covered by the PBO analysis.
- The PBO analysis is limited to estimating the distributional impact of the federal fuel charge and does not attempt to account for the economic and environmental costs of climate change.
- In a November 2022 report, the PBO estimated that the cost of climate change has lowered Canada’s GDP by 0.8 per cent, as of 2021. In the Yukon context, 0.8 per cent of real GDP is roughly \$28 million per year. The PBO is expecting the cost of climate change to increase with time.

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Carbon Rebate

Finance

- The Bank of Canada's latest monetary policy report released January 24th, notes in its projections for overall consumer price index growth for 2024 and 2025, that the impact of the carbon price on year-over-year inflation is generally low, at roughly 0.1 percentage points.

November 2023, OBPS Regulatory Changes

- OBPS facilities are able to purchase fuel free of the carbon charge. OBPS facilities, instead, are subject to the carbon price on the portion of their emissions that exceed an annual output-based emissions limit. Canada refers to that payment as a regulatory charge. Facilities that emit less than the level, earn surplus credits that they can bank or sell.
- In 2023, Canada began lowering the OBPS facility's allowable charge-free emissions limit. These changes were not included in the original Pan-Canadian Framework carbon pricing discussions.
- This change increases the potential money raised by the OBPS in Yukon and the cost imposed on industry. During the development of the Yukon's OBPS rebate program, the Department of Finance will assess the impact of the OBPS tightening rate.

ANNEX

Federal fuel charge rates applicable in the Yukon (cents per litre unless specified)

Date of increase*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
\$ per tonne	20	30	40	50	65	80	95	110	125	140	155	170
Gasoline	4.4	6.6	8.8	11.1	14.4	17.7	21.0	24.3	27.6	30.9	34.3	37.6
Light fuel oil	5.4	8.1	10.7	13.4	17.4	21.5	25.5	29.5	33.5	37.5	41.6	45.6
Propane	3.1	4.6	6.2	7.7	10.1	12.4	14.7	17.0	19.4	21.7	24.0	26.3
Natural gas**	3.9	5.9	7.8	9.8	12.7	15.7	18.6	21.5	24.5	27.4	30.3	33.3

Aviation turbo fuel and gasoline are exempt

*July 1 for 2019, April 1 for future years ** Per cubic meter

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Estimated fuel use in Yukon versus rebate

	Rebate (% of total)	Estimated shares of carbon levies paid by rebate group				
		2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
General businesses	36.0%	48.38%	48.26%	49.29%	34.50%	35.00%
Mining businesses	12.0%	-	-	-	11.50%	10.70%
Yukon individuals	45.00%	28.13%	27.67%	26.56%	26.80%	25.20%
Municipal governments	3.50%	2.41%	2.47%	2.27%	2.60%	3.40%
First Nations governments	3.50%	0.36%	0.36%	2.09%	2.80%	2.10%
Visitors (tourists)	0.00%	8.42%	8.90%	7.66%	8.50%	9.80%
Government of Yukon	0.00%	11.24%	11.21%	11.03%	12.10%	12.60%
Government of Canada	0.00%	0.54%	0.56%	0.57%	0.70%	0.80%
Other	0.00%	0.53%	0.57%	0.54%	0.50%	0.50%

These estimates rely on data from Statistics Canada that is subject to a significant lag. Changes should generally be interpreted as adjustments based on more recent data, rather than changes in actual consumption.

Estimated levies and rebates to individuals

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Levy paid by individual	\$87.48	\$131.43	\$157.59	\$179.11	\$160.11
Rebate to individuals	\$192.00	\$176.00	\$320.00	\$372.00	\$310.00
Remote supplement	\$19.20	\$17.60	\$32.00	\$37.20	\$62.00

Yukon general business rebate amounts by on asset class

(per \$1,000 in assets)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Building rebate	\$3.45	\$4.41	\$19.81	\$10.95	\$11.10
Equipment rebate	\$17.24	\$22.03	\$99.05	\$54.73	\$55.50
Green rebate	\$34.48	\$44.05	\$198.10	\$109.45	\$111.00

Yukon mining business rebate amounts by on asset class

	(per \$1,000 in assets)	2023–24	2024–25
Placer mining businesses	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$84.32	\$72.94
	Green rebate	\$437.80	\$222.00
Quartz mining businesses	Buildings and equipment rebate	\$21.08	\$36.47
	Green rebate	\$109.45	\$111.00

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Allocation amongst First Nation's share

First Nation	Percentage of First Nation's Total
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	7.2886%
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations	11.3420%
Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation	8.9878%
Kluane First Nation	4.1276%
Kwanlin Dun First Nation	8.8169%
Liard First Nation	10.1364%
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	6.4153%
First Nation of Na-Cho Ny'ak Dun	5.9976%
Ross River Dena Council	5.9122%
Selkirk First Nation	6.8425%
Ta'an Kwach'an Council	5.0579%
Teslin Tlingit Council	7.6873%
Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation	7.8962%
White River First Nation	3.4916%

Allocation amongst Municipalities' share

Municipality	Percentage of Municipalities' Total
Carmacks	2.4975%
Dawson City	9.6566%
Faro	2.1070%
Haines Junction	4.2767%
Mayo	2.4492%
Teslin	2.4321%
Watson Lake	6.3431%
Whitehorse	70.2378%

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Carbon Rebate

Finance

Approved by:

March 3, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector by continuing to build infrastructure that supports Yukoners transitioning to electric vehicles.
- To date, the Government of Yukon has installed 19 direct current fast charging stations across the Yukon, making all road-accessible communities accessible by electric vehicles.
- We recently passed a regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* that allows the Yukon private sector, First Nations governments, development corporations and municipalities to charge a fee for accessing electric vehicle charging stations.

Additional response:

- Passing the electric vehicle charging station regulation facilitates an emerging market in the green economy and supports the clean transportation goals laid out in Our Clean Future and the *Clean Energy Act*.
- Thanks to funding support from the Government of Canada, we are also offering incentives to individuals, businesses, First Nations governments and municipalities for the installation of level two electric vehicle charging stations.
- We are targeting the installation of 200 level two chargers owned by businesses, organizations and local governments and already have supported 63 level two charger installations.

Session Briefing Note

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Electric vehicle use is increasing and the public is interested in the growth of an electric vehicle charging network in the Yukon and neighbouring jurisdictions.
- The Government of Yukon recently passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* that enables the private sale of electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

Background:

- Our Clean Future commits the government to a target of 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030. (See BN #33)
- The *Clean Energy Act* commits the government to 10 per cent light-duty electric vehicle sales by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- The Government of Canada recently announced the Electric Vehicle Availability Standard, which establishes regulated targets that require at least 60 per cent of vehicle sales nationwide be zero-emission vehicles by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2035.
- The Government of Yukon operates 19 direct current fast chargers in road-connected communities throughout the Yukon. The departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Highways and Public Works are working to fill critical gaps between chargers.
- As of December 31, 2023, 344 light-duty zero-emissions vehicles are registered in the Yukon. Zero-emissions vehicles were 4.9 per cent of light-duty vehicle sales in 2023.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 27, 2024

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 22, 2024
Last Updated: March 27, 2024

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Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are protecting the environment by increasing the Yukon's use of renewable energy and reducing our energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Our energy incentive programs offer energy cost-saving, emission-reducing options to Yukon residents, businesses, organizations and municipal and First Nations governments.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits accessible and affordable for Yukoners. (See BN # 36)

Additional Response:

- As of January 1, 2024, 326 light-duty zero-emission vehicles and 16 medium and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles are registered in the territory.
- Since 2020, we have issued rebates for 1,148 electric bicycles and 148 residential and commercial smart electric heating systems.
- As of January 1, 2024, 219 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Since 2018, we have issued 1,031 rebates for highly energy-efficient new homes.

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about what the government is doing to reach its targets in Our Clean Future. (See BN #33)

Background:**Clean transportation**

- Our Clean Future targets 4,800 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030.
- Our Clean Future targets fast-charging stations across the Yukon to make it possible to travel between all road-accessible Yukon communities by 2027. As of 2024, all road-accessible communities in the Yukon are within reach of a public electric vehicle fast charger.
- Rebates for 75 per cent of costs of level two chargers (designed for home and business use) are available to businesses, and 90 per cent of costs for First Nations governments, corporations and municipalities. (See BN #29)

Renewable heating

- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 1,300 smart electric heating devices. To date, we have supported 148 commercial and residential smart electric heating systems and uptake is increasing.
- Yukoners can access the Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to help with the costs of installing an electric heat pump.
- Our Clean Future targets the installation of 20 large commercial and institutional biomass systems by 2030 in non-Yukon government buildings. To date, we have supported three commercial and institutional biomass projects through our energy incentive programs.
- We are also aware of four commercial and institutional biomass projects that were commissioned prior to our incentive programs, for a total of seven systems.

Session Briefing Note

Energy Programs

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

High-performance buildings (new and existing)

- Our Clean Future targets 2,000 high-performance retrofits to non-government buildings. Since 2018, 219 high-performance retrofits in existing buildings have been completed.
- Yukoners can access the new Better Buildings Program and our Good Energy rebates to assist with the cost of comprehensive energy retrofits.
- To date, we have issued 1,031 rebates for high-performing new homes. Our Clean Future targets 500 rebates for net-zero energy-ready new homes by 2030.

Better Buildings Program (See BN #36)

- Fifty-one residential and four commercial eligibility applications for the Better Buildings Program have been submitted. Applications have come from home and building owners in Whitehorse, Dawson, Faro and Haines Junction.
- As of January 1, 2024, there are six clients actively participating in the Better Buildings program with funding agreements signed with the Department of Community Services for a total of \$253,661. Five of the active clients are in Whitehorse and one is in Haines Junction.
- While program participation doubled from the first to second quarter of 2023-24, uptake is likely being dampened by current interest rates.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

IPP

Spring 2024
Yukon Development
Corporation

Recommended response:

- The goal of the Independent Power Production policy is to support the development of locally sourced renewable energy.
- The Independent Power Production policy enables Yukon First Nations governments, communities, and entrepreneurs to generate renewable energy and feed clean electricity into the main electrical grid or into micro-grids in diesel-dependent communities.
- Due to high interest, the Standing Offer Program was fully subscribed.
- Early this year, the Proponent for the North Fork Project informed Yukon Energy that the project will not be proceeding.
- Projects currently in the queue are advancing through the connection process. Additional applications will be considered as they are received from Proponents.
- Once the Standing Offer limit is reached, new applications will continue to be accepted for later consideration should the number of projects under review decreases or it is determined through technical studies that it is safe to increase the Standing Offer Program limit.
- Acceptance to the Standing Offer Program does not guarantee funding for Projects through the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative or that an Electricity Purchase Agreement will be signed.

Additional response:

- The Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership started to provide electricity to the Yukon Integrated Grid on March 8, 2024, through their Thäy Tāw (Haeckel Hill) four-megawatt wind project to the Yukon Integrated Grid.

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Session Briefing Note IPP

Yukon Development
Corporation

- Additional time was needed to complete site testing and commissioning.
- We are making substantial progress towards integrating renewable projects in all micro-grid communities, with the goal to reduce the fossil fuels used by 30 per cent by 2030.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong First Nations, municipal, and private sector interest in renewable energy and in government support for such initiatives.
- [The North Fork Project has been removed from the queue.](#)

Background:

- The Independent Power Production Policy includes three programs: the Standing Offer Program; Unsolicited Proposals; and Calls for Power.
- The Standing Offer Program has an annual limit of 40-gigawatt hours of electricity purchased by the utilities.
- Oro Enterprises Ltd., the proponent of the proposed 2 MW New Era North Fork Hydro project in Dawson City, was one of the 11 proponents in the queue. On January 29, 2024, Oro Enterprises Inc informed Yukon Energy that the North Fork Project was cancelled.
- In 2022 and 2023, two additional proponents were recommended for consideration to the SOP queue by Energy, Mines & Resources. Projects were put “on hold” and advised that studies to assess the impacts of their projects on the grid would only proceed when room in the IPP SOP queue became available.
- Yukon Energy is meeting with the next Proponent in the queue.
- Ten independent power production projects have signed Energy Purchase Agreements with their respective utilities. Of these, four are actively producing electricity.
 1. Solvest’s solar project - Whitehorse (active)

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**Session Briefing Note
IPP****Spring 2024**Yukon Development
Corporation

2. Nomad Construction and Electrical Services' solar project - Whitehorse (active)
 3. Vuntut Gwitchin Government's solar project - Old Crow (active)
 4. Klondike Development Organization's solar project - Dawson City (active)
 5. Chu Níkwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) I ([active](#))
 6. Chu Níkwän Eagle Hill (Haeckel Hill) II ([active](#))
 7. White River First Nation's solar project - Beaver Creek (tbd);
 8. Kluane First Nation's Nt'si wind project - Kluane Lake (tbd);
 9. Arctic Pharm's solar project - Whitehorse (tbd); and
 10. Sunergy's solar project - Haines Junction (Soon to be commissioned).
- [First Kaska is developing a significant solar renewable energy project to provide power to the Watson Lake micro-grid.](#) Canada's approval for the project to receive funds through the Arctic Energy Fund is pending approval.
 - Funding is available in 2024-2025 for prospective renewable energy projects through the Arctic Energy Fund and the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative coordinated by the Yukon Development Corporation.

Approved by:_____
President & CEO, Yukon Development Corporation

2024.04.10

Date Approved**TOC**

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is implementing one-third of the Our Clean Future strategy's key actions by leading 60 commitments aimed at increasing renewable energy production, improving energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Forty-two new actions were added to Our Clean Future in 2023. Of these, 20 actions are assigned to Energy, Mines and Resources on topics including energy, forestry, and climate change adaptation.
- Notable achievements to date include:
 - In early 2024, we enabled the private sale of electricity through electric vehicle charging stations to support our clean transportation goals.
 - In late 2023, we achieved our 2030 micro-generation target of 7 megawatts, seven years ahead of schedule. There are currently over 9 megawatts of total renewable energy generating capacity installed.
 - In fall 2022, the *Clean Energy Act* was brought into force. This is the territory's first climate change legislation.

Additional response:

- Energy, Mines and Resources has successfully completed one-third of its key actions and integrated another third into its operations and service delivery to the public. The remaining third is underway and details of that progress are found in the Our Clean Future 2022 annual report.

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Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Under Our Clean Future, we have supported many Yukoners to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by giving rebates for electric bicycles and zero-emissions vehicles and expanding the Yukon's network of electric vehicle charging stations.
- The Government of Yukon continues to work with stakeholders to ensure Yukon's electrical grid is predominantly sourced from renewable sources.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about Energy, Mines and Resources' progress in implementing its key actions under Our Clean Future. The 2022 Our Clean Future and Clean Energy Act reports were released in December 2023 and included new commitments.

Background:

- Under Our Clean Future Phase II, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is responsible for 60 actions, including four joint actions. Most of these actions are energy-related or have energy implications in the Yukon.
- The department is currently working to establish a mining intensity target for quartz and placer mining operations into the Clean Energy Act. (See BN #37)
- Some of the actions are energy programs and rebates (See BN #30); public outreach programs; and half (30 actions) can be achieved through legislation and existing resources.
- Our Clean Future included two commitments to increase the amount of renewable fuel in both diesel and gasoline fuel pools by 2025 (Actions T9 and T10).
 - These actions strive to have approximately 20 per cent of diesel consisting of biodiesel or renewable diesel by volume, approximately 10 per cent of gasoline consisting of ethanol by volume by 2025 and a 30 per cent emissions intensity reduction overall by 2030.
- Our Clean Future notable achievements on targets as of January 9, 20

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Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR

Commitments

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Expanding the government's electric vehicle fast charger network to 19 publicly available units in all road-accessible communities.
- Achieving nearly 7 megawatts of renewable electricity from micro-generators.
- Supporting the construction of over 1,000 high-performance homes that are at least 50 per cent more energy efficient than building code standards.
- Installing the targeted 25 electric heat pumps in Yukon homes during a pilot project to assess heat pumps in a cold climate.
- Supporting the installation of 138 smart electric heating devices.
- Reaching 326 light duty zero-emission vehicles registered in the territory thanks to vehicle rebates and investment in charging stations.
- Providing 1,065 rebates for electric bicycles.

Nuclear:

- In Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon commits to staying “up to date on new and emerging energy technologies that may be able to meet Yukon’s needs in the future, such as nuclear energy, and increase our knowledge of renewable and low-carbon energy sources that may be available in Yukon.”
- In 2021, the Government of Yukon contracted Calian Nuclear Ltd. to do a feasibility study on the potential use of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in the Yukon.
- Calian delivered a report called: Feasibility Study of Small Modular Reactors in the Yukon. As part of the contract, Calian conducted focus groups and interviews with a small number (23) of stakeholders to assess perceptions and opinions towards nuclear power generation. This was captured in a separate report called “SMR in the Yukon Engagement Report”.
- The Feasibility Study of Small Modular Reactors in the Yukon report was posted on Yukon.ca on August 7, 2023, and a copy was provided to a CBC reporter as promised.

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Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future: EMR Commitments

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Government of Yukon has not decided on whether to adopt SMR technology in the territory.
- As signatories to the Government of Canada's small modular reactor action plan, we are participating in these important national discussions and exploring what clean energy sources and storage technologies may be available to accelerate Canada's low-carbon future.

Hydrogen:

- In spring 2021, the Government of Yukon contracted Navius Research to explore how the adoption of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies could further reduce emissions in the Yukon's energy production and transportation sectors.
- Navius delivered a report called: Potential of hydrogen to help decarbonize the Yukon.
- The Government of Yukon is currently exploring options to further this work through the development of a hydrogen pilot project. This work is at an early stage of development with government officials engaging potential partners in early discussions.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

May 2, 2024

Date approved

ENV #1 / EMR #33

Spring 2024

Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- We recognize the urgency of the climate emergency and launched Our Clean Future in September 2020 to map our route forward.
- The Government of Yukon continues to make significant progress on implementing Our Clean Future. In December 2023, we released the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we made responding to climate change in 2022.
- The report announced the addition of 42 new actions to help us reach our climate goals. These new actions are a product of the important work of the Yukon Climate Leadership Council, the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change, Navius Research and the findings in the Climate Risk Assessment report.
- The 42 new actions implement 15 recommendations from the Yukon Climate Leadership Council and three recommendations from the Yukon Youth Panel on Climate Change.
- Additionally, several of the new recommendations put forward by the Yukon Climate Leadership Council align with existing Our Clean Future actions.
- We will continue to work together to advance our efforts to reduce emissions as we assess our progress year-to-year, consider new research and the input of others, and increase our resilience to climate change.
- We have also revised 19 existing actions to better align with our efforts to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and build a climate resilient territory.

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Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation

Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

Additional response:

- As we continue to address climate change it is important for us to look back on our progress as we diligently work towards our objectives.
- We legislated greenhouse gas emissions targets and associated reporting through the Clean Energy Act in 2022.
- We installed electric vehicle chargers in every road-accessible community in the Yukon, enabling zero-emissions travel throughout the territory. (See EMR BN #29)
- We launched the five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership in 2023 which will enhance the agriculture sector's resiliency and adaptation to climate change.
- In collaboration with the Yukon's public utilities, we met our target to install seven megawatts of renewable electricity capacity through the Micro-Generation program by 2030. (See EMR BN #38)
- We launched the Better Buildings Program to offer affordable financing for energy retrofits to Yukoners' homes and buildings in 2022.
- We established a geohazard mapping program to understand risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors.
- We advanced emergency preparedness as we progressed the Community Wildfire Protection Plans for Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Beaver Creek, the Town of Faro and the Kluane Lake Region.
- We have begun work to develop flood hazard maps for all flood-prone Yukon communities. We expect to release flood maps for the Southern Lakes, Carmacks, and Teslin in 2024. Flood hazard mapping

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Session Briefing Note

Our Clean Future Implementation

Spring 2024Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

for Old Crow and Dawson and the Klondike Valley will begin in 2024 and 2025.

- In May 2023, we completed the installation of a biomass heating system at Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse.
- In January 2024, we passed an electric vehicle charging station regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* to allow First Nation governments, private businesses and municipalities to sell electricity through electric vehicle charging stations.

Third response:

- Of the original 136 actions released in Our Clean Future in 2020, we have completed 45 actions. Eighty-seven actions are in progress and four are yet to begin.
- The ambitious addition of 42 new actions in 2023 puts us on track to reduce the Yukon's emissions by 30 per cent by 2030; however, there is still significant work required to meet our target reduction of 45 per cent by 2030.
- We are working with industry to establish a path to implement the mining intensity target of a 45 per cent reduction in emissions per unit of production by 2035.
- We will continue to build on Our Clean Future as we learn more and implement new actions. This will be reflected in future annual reports.
- We will continue to find opportunities to reach our targets as we work with experts, stakeholders and partner governments across the territory and beyond.

Context — this may be an issue because:

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ENV #1 / EMR #33**Spring 2024****Session Briefing Note
Our Clean Future
Implementation**Environment and Energy,
Mines and Resources

- Climate change is of high interest to Yukoners and the government's progress in delivering on Our Clean Future commitments will be of interest.

Background:

- Our Clean Future was released on September 14, 2020 and now has 178 actions, of which 136 are original actions and 42 are new actions. These actions seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support the Yukon to be highly resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2030 (see **Appendix A**).
- The Government of Yukon reports annually on progress for the implementation of Our Clean Future. Three Annual Reports have been published to date, with the latest report released on December 20, 2023.
- The Our Clean Future website was launched in December 2023, which shows our commitments and successes towards fighting climate change.
- On February 16, 2024, the Government of Canada released an update on design options being considered for the upcoming Clean Electricity Regulations. This regulation is one of the Government of Canada's central commitments towards transitioning Canada towards a net-zero electricity grid by 2035.
- Yukon will be exempted from the Clean Electricity Regulations as the territory's electricity grid is currently not interconnected with any other region and is therefore not regulated by North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Approved by:**March 19, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

Date approved

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

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EMR #34/YDC #24

Spring 2024

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- We are investing in local renewable energy projects, encouraging the purchase of green technologies and creating business opportunities in the growing clean energy sector.
- We have temporarily paused intake for the micro-generation program within the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes area to address utility concerns about integrating grid-tied solar generation.
- Small-scale solar systems have enjoyed strong popularity and currently there are more than 12 megawatts of direct current solar capacity installed, including over 9 megawatts through the micro-generation program.

Additional response:

- We are providing funding to building owners to install efficient electric heat pumps and biomass heating systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from heating buildings.
- Yukoners are installing renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we achieved our micro-generation target of seven megawatts seven years ahead of schedule.
- Energy Purchase Agreements have been signed by 10 independent power production projects. Of these, four are producing electricity with three more projects expected to be completed in 2024.
- Energy storage solutions, such as the Battery Energy Storage System, are important for integrating renewable energy.

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EMR #34/YDC #24

Spring 2024

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is strong interest from First Nations governments, municipalities, the public and industry to install renewable energy systems with support from the government.
 - The micro-generation program was paused in December 2023 to allow Energy, Mines and Resources and the utilities to study the impacts of distributed renewable generation on the grid.
-

Background:

Our Clean Future

- Our Clean Future commitments include increasing renewable electricity on the Yukon's main grid to 97 per cent (action E1) and setting a target of increasing renewable heating in the Yukon's buildings to 50 per cent by 2030. (See BN #33)

Renewable energy generation: Independent Power Production Policy

- Yukon Development Corporation's Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative provides financial and technical support to Yukon First Nations, municipalities, and community organizations for community-led renewable energy projects. (See BN #31)
- A four-megawatt wind project is installed on Thäy Tāw (Haeckel Hill) with commissioning in progress. The project is owned by Chu Níkwän.
- Three solar IPPs with a total of 1.75 megawatts_{DC} capacity are operating on the main grid.
- 940 kilowatts_{DC} of solar is operating in Old Crow, owned by Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.
- Two solar IPPs representing a total of 4 megawatts capacity are installed and expected to be commissioned in 2024.

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EMR #34/YDC #24

Spring 2024

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Renewable energy generation: Micro-generation Program

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets seven megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of December 2023, there were 816 micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid which are generating 9.5 megawatts_{DC}. This is enough energy to supply about 1.7 per cent of the Yukon's five-year average annual electricity generation.
- Under the micro-generation program, eight First Nations governments and four First Nations Development Corporations have installed 110 renewable energy-generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.

Biomass

- We have supported three large-scale commercial and institutional biomass heating projects in the territory. We are also aware of four large-scale biomass heating projects built independently from the Energy Branch's programs.
- Highways and Public Works is installing biomass heating systems in Government of Yukon buildings and is exploring the potential for biomass and other renewable energy systems in additional buildings. (See BN #55)

Geothermal resources

- The Government of Yukon is developing legislation to regulate geothermal energy development per Our Clean Future (action E11).
- Geological research is underway on the potential for geothermal as a renewable energy source for heating and electricity. (See BN #62)

Energy storage

- In 2022, the report, Meeting the Yukon's Electricity Needs through 2050, was completed by Navius Research.
- The report asserted that Yukon's electricity demand is expected to grow, that solar and wind are the most cost-effective options for meeting electricity demand,

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EMR #34/YDC #24 Spring 2024

Session Briefing Note Renewable Energy Initiatives

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

electricity storage is critical to high penetration of renewables, and that growing demand for electricity will increase generating costs.

- Yukon Energy is working towards completing the grid scale battery and will consider other energy storage solutions with independent power producers and through the integrated resource planning process. (See YDC/YEC BN #2; and YEC BN#42 and YEC BN#43)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 29, 2024

Date approved

President and CEO
Yukon Development Corporation

January 31, 2024

Date approved

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- High snowpack and elevated groundwater levels in the Yukon have increased the frequency of landslides in recent years.
- The Government of Yukon is actively working with communities to mitigate landslide risks by investing in geohazard mapping and monitoring in and around communities and along highway corridors.
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the Our Clean Future 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon (Community Services, Highways and Public Works, and Energy, Mines and Resources) has established a working group with the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to monitor the Moosehide and Sunnydale slides and develop response plans in case of a slide.
- We are monitoring landslides and thaw slumps along highways and our Geological Survey team is providing support to Highways and Public Works for mitigation planning.
- We will also be assessing landslide risk along highways where recent wildfires may have caused slope instability, particularly in areas with permafrost.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukoners, particularly those in Whitehorse and Dawson City, may have concerns about the risk posed by landslides.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Landslide Monitoring

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- In Dawson, the Moosehide Slide and the Sunnydale Slide represent potential hazards; in both cases, ground movement rates are cause for concern. Both slides are being observed with near real-time monitoring equipment to provide advance warning if ground movement accelerates.
- The multiple landslides on the North Klondike Highway were triggered in 2022 by heavy rainfall on permafrost slopes. Some of these slopes are now being observed with monitoring equipment.
- In Whitehorse, elevated groundwater levels caused several slides along the downtown clay cliffs over the last two springs. These landslides impacted traffic and required local evacuations.
- The Takhini permafrost thaw slump along the Alaska Highway has increased in size since it first formed in 2014. The head scarp of the slump is currently less than 10 metres from the highway. The Department of Highways and Public Works has begun work to re-route the highway away from the slump.
- Collectively, these events highlight the increasing need for geohazard mapping and monitoring per commitments in Our Clean Future. (See BN # 33)
- The Yukon Geological Survey is on track to complete initial geohazard maps for all communities by the Our Clean Future 2025 deadline. A Yukon Permafrost Database is now publicly available online and is being updated as new monitoring wells are established.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is continuing to invest in LiDAR surveys and instrumented boreholes to monitor permafrost.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 30, 2024

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The amendments to the Assessment and Taxation Act and Regulations for the Better Buildings Program were proclaimed on October 20, 2022.
- The Better Buildings Program offers low-cost funding to eligible property owners to complete energy-efficiency retrofits. This means more property owners will have the means to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. The funding is repayable by a local improvement charge attached to the property.
- The program has received 56 applications of clients wishing to participate. There are 6 projects currently underway and 1 has been completed.
- We have worked closely with municipal governments as partners in this program and have developed administrative processes to ensure its successful delivery. All municipalities have signed agreements indicating their participation in this program.

Context:

- There is interest in the program & uptake.

Background:

- Eligible properties include property that is subject to a land and improvement tax, is located within a participating municipality or outside of a municipal boundary, has an existing home five years or older, has a mobile home situated on titled land permanently or for a minimum of one year.
- Participating in the Better Buildings Programs also allows for property owners to apply for available energy efficiency grant and rebate programs offered through

Yukon government and the federal government after making energy-efficiency retrofits to their properties.

- This loan program makes funding available to eligible residential and commercial property owners at low-interest rates.
- This program is currently administered by the Energy Branch and the Property Assessment and Taxation Branch.
- The funding is recouped through local improvement taxes paid by the participant on an annual basis.
- The program was announced in the Speech from the Throne in October 2019 and the Minister made a Ministerial Statement on the home retrofit loan program on October 23, 2019.
- This loan program is in addition to current programs at the Yukon Housing Corporation that include the Home Repair Program, and the First Nations Energy Efficiency Program, which is funded through the federal Low Carbon Economy Fund. The Yukon Housing Corporation is also working on energy retrofits to government-owned housing throughout the territory, also funded by the Low Carbon Economy Fund.
- As of January 26th, 2023, Municipal Agreements were completed with all municipalities.
- Since the program launch on October 25, 2022, the Energy Branch has received applications from 56 clients wishing to participate.
- The rapid rise in interest rates has meant a decrease in Property Assessment and Taxation's programs generally. For example, applications for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program applications are the lowest since the 2019/2020 fiscal year. This is consistent with the interest rate increases from 0.75% in March 2022 to 5.25% in July 2023.
- In addition, inflation has increased the cost of materials and services. The Property Assessment and Taxation branch completes a cost study every two years to determine the replacement cost on improvements. It is based on the consumer

price index, recent sale price of homes, cost of materials and other factors. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a marked increase in the results of the cost study, meaning it is more expensive to build a new home or improve an existing home.

- Budget was reduced in 2023/24 for the Better Buildings Program to reflect updated forecast of applications and projects anticipated for the current fiscal year.
- All applications received have been reviewed and approved by PAT. Most of our approved applications are sitting pending, waiting on the client to decide whether they are going to commit to the project or not. The following are our pending numbers by community:
 - 36 Whitehorse
 - 3 Dawson
 - 2 Faro
 - 3 Haines Junction
 - 6 rural Yukon not in a municipality
- Four new clients joined the program between July 1 and December 18, 2023.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon has established a target of a 45 per cent reduction in the mining sector's greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2035.
- We are working towards legislating an intensity-based target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production in the mining sector.
- We are working with a consultant and the mining industry to set baselines, establish benchmarks and find solutions that enable industry to achieve the target.

Additional response:

- An intensity-based approach accounts for progress made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourages mine operators to innovate and adopt low-carbon practices, and accounts for the growth and substantial year-to-year fluctuations that occur in the Yukon's mineral sector.
- The mining intensity approach recognizes the differences between the types of activities undertaken by different quartz and placer operations throughout their mining lifecycles.
- Mining emissions are included in the economy-wide, net-zero, 2050 target legislated in the *Clean Energy Act*.
- Since 2022, through the licensing process, quartz mines have been required to project anticipated greenhouse gas emissions, identify reduction measures, and annually report on greenhouse gas emissions.

Session Briefing Note

Mining Intensity Target

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions regarding Action I9 in Our Clean Future to establish an intensity-based greenhouse gas reduction target for the Yukon's mining industry.
(See BN #32)

Background:

- The percentage of emissions from mining is variable year-to-year. From 2009-2020 it contributed 8 to 15 per cent of the Yukon's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- A target of an overall mining emissions intensity reduction of 45 per cent below 2023 levels for 2035 and subsequent years was announced during the spring 2023 legislative session.
- Energy, Mines, and Resources has committed to bring forward an amendment to the *Clean Energy Act* that would set this target into legislation.
- The legislation will include a requirement to report annual progress towards the target.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is working with a consultant and the mineral industry to establish baselines and benchmarks to measure progress towards the target.
- Industry was notified in October 2023 that it would be presented an opportunity to provide feedback on the consultant's report when it is completed.
- An initial report and proposal were presented to officials in November 2023. An updated report is expected in February 2024.
- The proposed baseline methodology will be presented to industry later in the Spring once it is reviewed by the department.
- Energy, Mines and Resources is also working towards legislating a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for post-production reclamation activities, including reclamation for abandoned mines.
- Using data provided through the quartz mine licensing process and from fuel tax data, the Government of Yukon will track the sector's progress toward achieving greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Session Briefing Note
Mining Intensity Target

- Energy, Mines and Resources conducted public engagement on the overall mining intensity target in fall 2022. A What We Heard report from that engagement is available on Yukon.ca.
- Canada's approach to pricing carbon pollution for emission-intensive trade-exposed industries, such as mining, includes an Output-Based Pricing System. Depending on their size, quartz mines in the Yukon may be subject to this pricing system.
- The Department of Finance is leading the development of a separate rebate that will return carbon levies collected from larger mines under the Output-Based Pricing System to the mining industry to help it achieve the mining intensity target. Energy, Mines and Resources is assisting with this work. (See BN #28)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

February 29, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Micro-generation

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to sustainable and effective renewable electricity solutions that meet the growing needs of the territory.
- The micro-generation program has seen strong uptake and popularity throughout the Yukon since it was launched in October 2013.
- Yukoners are installing renewable energy generating systems at such a high rate that we have achieved our 2030 micro-generation target of 7 megawatts seven years ahead of schedule.
- We have paused intake for the micro-generation program within the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes area to address utility concerns about integrating high penetrations of grid-tied solar generation.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with public utilities to study how variable renewable energy can continue to be safely added to the grid while ensuring the reliability of Yukon's electricity infrastructure.
- There are currently over 9 megawatts of direct current renewable energy generating capacity installed.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The micro-generation program was paused in December 2023.

Background:

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and
Yukon Development Corporation

Date prepared: Jan 2, 2024
Last Updated: **TOC**

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Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Micro-generation

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

- Our Clean Future (action E10) targets 7 megawatts of installed renewable electricity capacity by 2030 through micro-generation. As of December 2023, there were 816 micro-generators connected to the Yukon utility grid generating 9.5 megawatts direct current capacity. This is enough energy to supply about 1.7 per cent of the Yukon's five-year average annual electricity generation. (See [BN #33](#))
- Under the micro-generation program, eight First Nation governments and four First Nations Development Corporations have installed 110 renewable energy generating systems on institutional, commercial and residential buildings throughout the Yukon.
- The micro-generation program has been active since October 2013 and was designed to allow Yukoners to connect their home or business renewable electrical generation systems to the grid.
- In the summer of 2023, Yukon's electric utilities identified grid disruptions on the Yukon Integrated Grid, which they attributed to the high number of micro-generation systems.
- Energy Branch officials are working with utilities, industry, and micro-generation participants to change inverter settings. This will allow micro-generation systems to be more resilient to changes in frequency on the grid, improving the stability of the system.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is working with the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation to develop a study to determine the next steps for the program.

Session Briefing Note

Micro-generation

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources and Yukon
Development Corporation

Approved by:

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 29, 2024

Date approved

President,
Yukon Development Corporation

January 31, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

2024 Flood Readiness

Community Services
Environment

Recommended response:

- We understand the concerns of Yukoners about the potential for spring flooding. We have experienced significant floods in recent years, and I want to assure Yukoners that we are working hard to be prepared to respond.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is planning and coordinating with local governments and agencies to establish an inventory of sandbags and necessary response tools and materials, and is focused on training to bolster capacity and ensure readiness.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is also working with municipalities, First Nations and other partners such as Water Resources Branch and Environment and Climate Change Canada to coordinate weather and flood forecasting moving into the spring melt.

Additional response:

- The April 1 snow bulletin, shows low flood potential in most of the territory this spring with higher risk in the Klondike and Porcupine.
- Spring weather, the timing and progression of snowmelt, the evolution of breakup, as well as the amount of rain we receive are important drivers of flooding regardless of snowpack levels.
- The Department of Environment continues to work with the Emergency Measures Organization to plan and coordinate with local governments and agencies to enhance flood preparedness and emergency response efforts.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****2024 Flood Readiness**Community Services
Environment

- Officials from Community Services work closely with the Department of Environment to track water levels, snow levels, and provide forecasting data in the spring.

Third response**Old Crow Flood Risk:**

- Old Crow currently has the highest relative flood risk due to the record snowpack (166% of normal) and the potential for that to drive high flows on the Porcupine River if the snow melts rapidly. This could result in flooding during breakup due to high ice jam-induced water levels, or the open water period due to high snowmelt peak flows.
- The risk of ice jamming is influenced by both the strength of the ice cover and upstream flows that drive the downstream progression of breakup; both highly dependent on the weather conditions leading up to breakup. Rapid warming could result in more severe ice jamming if river flow rises rapidly before substantial ice decay has occurred.
- The Emergency Measures Organization is in regular contact with Old Crow. Water levels are being carefully monitored by hydrologists at the Water Resources Branch.
- Any response will be appropriate to the circumstances on the ground and the unique challenges of Old Crow's remote location.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****2024 Flood Readiness**Community Services
Environment

Dawson Flood Preparedness

- The Klondike is also seeing above average snowpack this year and is currently **124%** of the historical median.
 - The current flood risk for the Klondike Valley is above average and highest around the Klondike highway bridge and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in C4 subdivision, and low-lying areas for several kilometers upstream of the bridge, as a result of the potential for ice jamming.
 - **On April 22, the Government of Yukon issued a high-water advisory for the Klondike River. Water levels could change rapidly with ice movements along the river this week.**
 - Planners from the Emergency Measures Organization are meeting with officials from the City of Dawson and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. They have conducted a tabletop exercise to support flood preparedness in the region.
 - Emergency equipment will be inventoried as part of this exercise.
 - For both Old Crow and Dawson, the Emergency Measures Organization is reviewing all mitigation options to ensure that the appropriate equipment and approaches are deployed.
-

Context:

- This may become an issue because annual flooding since summer 2021 has raised public interest in Yukon government's flood response role.
-

Background:

- The Emergency Measures Organization works with communities, municipalities, and First Nation governments across the Yukon on emergency preparedness.
-

Session Briefing Note

2024 Flood Readiness

Community Services
Environment

EMO has reached out to all Yukon communities to begin preparations for this response season. EMO will pre-position flood response materials in Yukon communities as needed.

- We are prepared for the flood season throughout the Yukon. We have adequate supplies to ensure communities are prepared for the onset of the flood response season.
- The Snow Survey Bulletin and Water Supply Forecast reports provide a summary of winter meteorological and hydrological conditions for major Yukon watersheds.
- They provide long-term snowpack averages, monthly data and current snow depth and snow water equivalent observations for 52 locations in the Yukon and five locations in the neighbouring areas of British Columbia and Alaska.
- The April 1 snow survey typically represents peak snowpack.
- Every March, April, and May the Government of Yukon conducts Yukon-wide snow surveys to help forecast water levels and flow conditions across the Yukon.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Deputy Minister, Environment

April 29, 2024

Date approved

April 29, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Compliance Summary

2023

#41
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended Response:

- Natural Resource Officers conduct inspections, monitor compliance, and are responsible for the enforcement of legislation regulating natural resources including mining, forestry, land use, water, and environmental protection.
- Officers encourage compliance through a progressive range of enforcement responses that vary from education to warnings, fines, suspensions, and formal charges.
- In 2023, Natural Resource Officers completed [911](#) inspections related to mineral resources, waters, forests, and public lands.

Additional response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch includes the Major Mines Unit, which is dedicated to managing compliance at quartz mines across the territory.
- Major mine sites are inspected regularly with officers on site approximately every 6 to 8 weeks.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is also responsible for water quality monitoring of placer watersheds and water sample analysis for compliance monitoring.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in how the Government of Yukon monitors water quality at mine sites.
- Yukoners, and specifically Yukon First Nations, have increasingly expressed interest in compliance and enforcement activities related to resource development in the Yukon.

Session Briefing Note

Compliance Summary

2023

#41
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch is staffed by 28 Natural Resource Officers, located across district offices in Dawson City, Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Mayo, Carmacks, Ross River, Teslin, and Whitehorse.
- The Major Mines Unit consists of three officers responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement at major quartz mining and associated exploration sites across the territory.
- The water quality monitoring team is based in Whitehorse and travels around the territory for monitoring.
- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch also assists with emergency response for major events like the recent floods and wildfires throughout the territory.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections is responsible for inspecting operations to ensure the terms and conditions of an authorization or licence are being met according to applicable legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Natural Resource Officers investigate and may undertake enforcement actions when compliance issues are identified.
- Enforcement actions may consist of a warning, summary convictions ticket, a direction or order, and/or court proceedings.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 26, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#42
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are advancing reclamation and closure of an abandoned placer claim block near Discovery Creek.
- The site is on Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation's Category A Settlement Land and we are working closely with the First Nation on the matter.
- To date, hazardous materials and contaminated soils have been removed from the site, and a Preliminary Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment has been completed.

Additional response:

- The Preliminary Phase Two Environmental Site Assessment follows established contaminated site guidelines and gathers essential site environmental information. From this, a plan for reclamation and closure can be finalized.
- The owner of the claim is deceased. The departments' position is that the deceased's estate is liable for the costs for the reclamation and closure of the abandoned claim.
- We remain committed to working with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation representatives to ensure reclamation and remediation of this site is completed.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in the expedient recovery of hydrocarbons and reclamation of the site.

Session Briefing Note

Discovery Claims Spill

#42
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections received an initial spill report on June 14, 2022. An inspector attended the site on June 24, 2022, documented observations, collected soil and water samples, and initiated an investigation.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections continued regular visits to the site to conduct additional soil sampling and to replace absorbent materials on July 28, August 4, August 24, and October 21, 2022 until weather prevented further access to the site.
- Throughout the process, Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff met regularly with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation representatives to provide updates regarding the site.
- Following unsuccessful attempts by Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections to have the responsible party correct the reclamation and remediation, an Environmental Protection Order and an Inspector's Direction were issued on October 17, 2022.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections learned that the responsible party was deceased, and no one could be formally charged for the related infractions.
- The deceased's estate representative has been advised that the Government of Yukon will be undertaking the necessary reclamation requirements outlined in the Inspector's Direction and that the estate would be financially liable for all associated costs. It is unknown if the deceased's estate has sufficient funds to cover the reclamation and closure costs.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

February 2, 2024

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: Janu
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note

Mount Nansen

#43
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We recognize that Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation has raised concerns about environmental risks at the abandoned Mount Nansen Mine caused by high water levels in the tailings pond.
- The Government of Canada is responsible for environmental liabilities at the site and has contracted Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership to lead this work.
- We understand that federal officials and representatives from Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership are working with the First Nation to develop solutions to help address these risks.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon monitors the site to ensure the operator is compliant with the terms and conditions of its care and maintenance water licence issued by the Yukon Water Board.
- The most recent site inspection occurred on [April 10](#), 2024. Water licence inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline.
- We will continue to monitor this situation and look for ways to support the parties in their efforts to address environmental risks at the site.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- At the Yukon Forum on February 16, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation expressed concern regarding potential environmental risk of water volume being stored behind the tailings dam as we begin to approach spring melt.

Session Briefing Note

Mount Nansen

#43
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The First Nation previously raised concerns about reclamation and closure activities and the conditions of the existing water licence with the Yukon Water Board and with local media.

Background:

- Mount Nansen Mine was abandoned by its operator in 1999.
- The original mine was licensed by the Government of Canada before the Government of Yukon assumed responsibility for managing the territory's natural resources.
- In 2019, Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership signed agreements with the Government of Canada and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to undertake the remediation and environmental monitoring of the Mount Nansen site.
- The operator's care and maintenance water licence was issued by the Yukon Water Board in August 2021. Water licence inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline.

Approved by:

May 2, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Recommended response:

- Many Yukoners continue to face challenges across the housing continuum, including:
 - homelessness and a lack of access to housing with services;
 - a lack of affordable rental supply; and
 - high house prices and mortgage rates.
- Exceptionally high building costs and rising interest rates are creating significant challenges for both Yukon Housing Corporation and its partners.
- The corporation's new strategic plan, Creating Home, will help transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates supports and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners.

Additional response:

- Across government, we are working with stakeholders to develop new land parcels, increase housing stock while also responding to the findings of the 2022 Office of the Auditor General Report on Housing.
- We continue to advance projects that provide new housing to meet Yukoners' needs.

Context:

- The combination of high rental costs, limited affordable housing options, and difficulties in securing mortgages, continue to be a challenge for many Yukoners.

Background:

General housing information in the Yukon

Homelessness

- At least 197 people were experiencing homelessness in the 2023 Whitehorse Point-in-Time Count. This included: 58% men; 38 % female; 4% other.

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Rental pricing

- As of October 2023, the median rent for units in Whitehorse in all types of buildings \$1,368. This is 5.1% higher than it was in October 2022. For rental units in buildings with three or more units, the median rent was \$1,250, and the vacancy rate was 1.2%. Within the renter population in Whitehorse:
 - 22.7% live in unaffordable housing;
 - 17.9% live in unsuitable housing; and
 - 10.5% live in inadequate housing.

Rental and vacancy rate, Yukon (YBS)

	April 2022	October 2022	April 2023	October 2023
Median rent (all types)	\$1,300	\$1,301	\$1,325	\$1,368
Vacancy rate (all types)	1.6%	1.7%	2.2%	1.9%

Housing Construction

- Residential building construction declined by 19.3% over the same period. There was \$81.9 million in residential building construction in Yukon in 2023. This figure represents a 7.5% decline from 2022.
- Labour shortages contribute to higher construction costs and are leading to lower residential construction output.¹

House prices

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics real estate reports show that average prices for single detached and condos have fallen for three consecutive quarters; however, house prices remain high and many Yukoners face affordability challenges due to rising mortgage rates.
- Average House Prices (YBS)

Type	Whitehorse Average House Prices		
	2022 Q3	2023 Q3	Change
Single-detached house	\$701,200	\$664,600	(-5.2%)
Condominium	\$459,400	\$426,600	(-7.1%)

¹ Northern Housing Report, 2023

Yukon Housing Corporation Accomplishments

Creating Home – YHC new strategic plan

- Creating Home is the corporation's new 5-year strategic plan that will transform affordable housing service delivery through the adoption of a more client-centred and collaborative approach that integrates supports and leads to better outcomes for Yukoners and communities.
- The plan draws on a recognized framework intended to re-design and transform health care delivery, called the Quadruple Aim, and adapts it to housing.
 - This innovative approach to housing delivery will lead to better outcomes by:
 - improving the client and provider experience
 - strengthening community wellbeing; and
 - contributing to a sustainable future
- Creating Home represents a significant shift in how Yukon Housing Corporation operates and delivers housing services.

Capital builds recently completed by YHC or partners:

- 60 units completed between 21/22 and 22/23 by YHC
- February 2024 10 units in Old Crow (with HPW)
- March 2024 accessible duplex in Faro
- January 2024 – 3-unit mobile home delivered and prepared for occupancy for RRDC staff to help improve social conditions in the community.
- August 2023 – two accessible, affordable duplexes in Mayo and Carmacks, YHC
- July 2023 – a 12-bed men's shelter, Jëje Zho, in Dawson City, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- May 2023 – 9-unit Elders' complex, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
- January 2023 – 87-unit rental development in Whitehorse by Boreal Commons
- January 2023 – 47-unit build for in Whitehorse YHC
- December 2022 – 84-unit Seniors' Supportive Housing Facility, Normandy Living.
- July 2022 – 45-unit multi-use building, Cornerstone: Opportunities Yukon
- June 2022 – triplex in Whitehorse, YHC
- Summer 2022 – 20-unit, Whistle Bend: Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
- March 2022 – triplexes in Mayo and Watson Lake, YHC

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

Underway or Upcoming housing capital projects for YHC and partners

YHC- Underway (12 units)

- 10-unit Watson Lake Housing First building
- 2-unit affordable duplex in Dawson

YHC – Upcoming (112+ units) Community housing:

- 34-unit building with 8 accessible units in Dawson
- 45+ unit building with 9 accessible units on 6th Avenue in Whitehorse (formerly Ryder Apartments)
- 10 units in Mayo
- 6-plex in Teslin
- 6-plex in Carcross
- 6-plex Haines Junction
- Accessible triplex in Whitehorse
- Accessible duplex in Ross River

Staff housing:

- Accessible duplex in Destruction Bay
- Accessible duplex in Pelly Crossing
- Duplex in Burwash Landing

Rent subsidy programs to make life more affordable for renters and seniors:

- July 2023, the corporation acquired an additional 16 units for lease from Normandy, for a total of 26 units to lease to YHC clients through its rent supplement program.
- Since 2020, the corporation has supported over 300 households pay rent through the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit. As of April 2024, 177 clients are receiving monthly support.

Support for homeowners:

- March 2024 – CYHB Homeowners stream
- June 2023 the Yukon government launched an \$8.25 million flood recovery program for residents and businesses affected by flooding in the Klondike Valley. (Tab #19)

Housing Issues

Yukon Housing Corporation

- April 2023, YHC launched the expanded Yukon Home Ownership Program which provides mortgages for qualified households to build and buy their homes across the territory, including Whitehorse.
 - The program is currently under review and scheduled for revision in the coming year.
- In 2020, YHC launched the revised Home Repair Program to support low to moderate-income Yukon homeowners to remain in their homes and age in place by providing funding to address mobility requirements, repairs, or core housing needs.

Support for new residential land development 2023:

- June 2023, the Government of Yukon partnering with the Government of Canada and the City of Dawson to develop [four new residential lots in Dawson City](#).
- February 2023 – 120 lots, including single family, multi-family and townhouse lots in Whistle Bend made available through public lottery.
- March 2023 Government of Yukon partnered with Liard First Nation on developing 43 new residential lots on Frances Avenue in Watson Lake.
- March 2023 – 74 residential lots in Mayo and the Logan and Whistlebend subdivisions of Whitehorse made available through public lottery.
- November 2022, signed a loan agreement with Kwanlin Dün First Nation's (KDFN) arm's-length development corporation Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership (CNLP) for a new residential land development project at [Copper Ridge West in Whitehorse](#), the first large-scale residential land development on settlement land in the Yukon. An amended loan agreement was signed August 2023 with Chu Níkwän for the same development.

Approved by:

President, Yukon Housing Corporation

April 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

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Recommended:

- Inflation has continued to improve in recent months, but all Yukon households continue to see their budgets stretched by elevated prices, with lower-income households often feeling the worst effects.
- The Government of Yukon continues to track inflation and its impact on Yukoners, so that we can take steps to ease the burden.
- As inflationary pressures continue to lessen, efforts to make life more affordable for Yukoners and to help industry are shifting from short-term assistance to measures with the potential to provide longer-term benefits, such as actions to improve home affordability.

Additional response:

- This year's Budget continues to support Yukoners by making sure they can access essential services at prices they can afford.
 - The Budget includes massive investments to advance affordable housing projects across the Yukon. From the Housing First Project in Watson Lake, the Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse, and the Korbo Multiplex in Dawson, the Yukon government will be taking action to build more affordable homes for Yukoners, especially those in vulnerable situations.
 - There is also over \$42 million in continued funding for early learning and child care in this Budget. This includes funding for the universal child care program, which has reduced child care fees to less than \$10 per day on average.

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

Finance

- o We are also making life more affordable and leading the nation with our Yukon-wide dental program, which will see \$5.4 million in continued funding for 2024-25.
 - o To make sure that more people have the option of staying home when they are sick, we have extended the Temporary Paid Sick Leave and included the necessary funding to do so in this Budget. We have also extended the Interim Electrical Rebate, which will provide welcome relief from power bills to Yukoners across the territory.
- These are just a few examples of the many programs and initiatives that will continue to support Yukoners this year.
- The Yukon's minimum wage has also been responsive to price changes, as its annual change is tied to inflation in the year prior. After growing 6.8 per cent in 2023, the minimum wage is scheduled to grow a further 4.9 per cent to \$17.59 per hour as of April 1, 2024. The new minimum wage would represent the second highest wage in Canada, behind only Nunavut's minimum wage of \$19.00 per hour.
- Higher inflation impacts various Government of Yukon programs through indexation, including:
 - o Subsidies for medical travel
 - o The Yukon Child Benefit
 - o Social Assistance Payments
 - o Student Financial Assistance
 - o Seniors' benefits
 - o The Pioneer Utility grant

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Inflation and Affordability (Corporate Note)

Spring 2024

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- o The Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation
- o The minimum wage
- o Residential rent caps
- o The tobacco tax rate

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Inflation has fallen from historical highs but remains elevated in Canada and in the Yukon.
- While improved, energy prices remain elevated, and food and shelter costs continue to be prominent drivers of overall inflation. These are all areas where higher prices are more obvious to consumers.
- Housing affordability has been a concern in the Yukon for several years.
- After more than a year of local inflation being among the highest in Canada, growth in the Whitehorse CPI trended down throughout 2023 and was once again below the national inflation in the last three months of 2023 [and the first two months of 2024](#).
- Higher earnings were reported across most industries in 2023, and several industries reported earnings growth more than 2023's average inflation of 4.9 per cent. Even as some industries had earnings gains outpace inflation, earnings growth of 2.8 per cent in the industry total fell short of the overall increase in prices in 2023.

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Inflation and Affordability

(Corporate Note)

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Background:

Inflation – Recent performance and outlook

- Early in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, some price pressures were slower to materialize in the Yukon than in other parts of the country, as inflation for Whitehorse was amongst the lowest in Canada in the first half of 2022.
- Robust price growth in the CPI components of food, shelter and recreation, education and reading material were key drivers of overall inflation in 2023.
- Actions taken by the Bank of Canada to rein in inflation by cooling the Canadian economy appear to be having the desired effects. The national labour market has softened, consumer spending has slowed, and real GDP has leveled out. Following ten increases in the overnight rate since March 2022, discussion among many analysts has shifted towards the timing of rate cuts.
- The Bank's efforts to tame inflation look to have set the stage for a soft landing for Canada, as inflation is trending down without an accompanying sharp downturn in economic activity. Weaker energy prices and improving supply chains have also helped contribute to a much-improved national inflation picture.
- Prior to the recent period of elevated inflation, prices in the Yukon had generally tracked close to the national trend. After averaging 3.9 per cent in 2023, the Bank expects national inflation to fall to 2.8 per cent in 2024 and 2.2 per cent in 2025. As price pressures continue to recede, a similar story is expected locally with growth of the Whitehorse CPI forecast to fall from 4.9 per cent in 2023 to 3.0 per cent in 2024 and 2.5 per cent in 2025.

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PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY

Projects under the Five-Year Capital Plan supporting housing affordability (Yukon Housing Corporation)

- The **Old Crow 10-Plex Mixed-Use Housing** facility will be completed and will be ready for residents to start moving in by March 2024.
- Construction of the **10-plex Housing First Project in Watson Lake** began in the summer of 2023. It is scheduled to be completed in the fall 2024.
- Construction of the **Faro and Dawson Duplex** projects started in summer 2023 and are scheduled to be complete in early 2024.
- The **Korbo Multiplex in Dawson** is in the design phase. This project will deliver approximately 34 new housing units.
- The old **Ryder Apartments in Whitehorse** was demolished in December 2023 and plans are underway to replace it with a new multi-family affordable housing complex. The project is in the design phase and is anticipated to deliver over 45 new units.

Universal Child Care Program (Education)

- Universal child care is available to all Yukon families using licensed child care spaces. The universal child care program has reduced fees to less than \$10 per day on average for families across the Yukon.

Dental Care program (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon's Dental Program was launched in 2023 and provides \$1,300 per year in dental benefits to Yukoners without dental coverage. The program will cover dental treatments necessary to relieve pain and infection, prevent disease, treat cavities, and restore chewing and social function. It will also offer full coverage for preventive care, such as routine dental cleaning.

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Paid sick leave program (Economic Development)

- On April 1, 2023, Economic Development launched the Paid Sick Leave Rebate. The program will run for two 12-month blocks:
 - April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024; and
 - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
- The Paid Sick Leave Rebate is a temporary program that offers up to 40 hours of paid sick leave to employees and self-employed Yukoners that earn less than the average private-sector wage of \$33.94/hour. The program includes all illnesses (and injuries not covered by any other Act, benefit, or program). The program is available to employees regardless of whether their employer offers paid sick leave, though employees must use all paid sick leave available to them through their employer before they are eligible for the Paid Sick Leave Rebate.

Yukon Child Benefit (Finance)

- The Yukon Child Benefit provides monthly payments to modest and low-income households who have children under 18. The maximum benefit per child is now tied to inflation, starting in the 2023–24 budget year.

Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement (Health and Social Services)

- The Yukon Seniors' Income Supplement provides a monthly income supplement for eligible Yukoner senior's receiving Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from the federal government. This amount is adjusted for inflation in October each year.

Inflation Relief Rebate and Interim Electrical Rebate (Yukon Development Corporation)

- The Inflation Relief Rebate, a \$50 rebate that is automatically applied to electrical customers' bills, was a temporary measure to address inflation. The Inflation Relief Rebate was most recently applied to all ATCO Electric Yukon and Yukon Energy bills for November and December 2023 and January 2024.

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- The Interim Electrical Rebate continues to provide residential electrical customers with a maximum rebate of \$22.62 per month based on the electricity they consume, up to 1,000 kilowatt hours (up to \$271.44 per year). This affordability measure has been extended to March 2025.

Other Government initiatives

Initiatives under Health and Social Services:

- Engagement on the Yukon's Social Assistance rates started in late summer 2023 with clients on Social Assistance.
- While the review is underway, the department is providing a \$100 monthly increase to eligible Social Assistance recipients.
- To offset inflationary cost of living increases and provide sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of children placed in their care, the department is providing a 10 per cent increase to monthly payments to caregivers of children in out of home care, on top of the annual indexed increase.
- During the 2023-24 fiscal year, a 16.46 per cent rate increase for community and extended family caregivers was provided. The rates are as follows:
 - o Whitehorse: \$46.86 per day
 - o Rural Communities: \$50.16 per day
 - o Old Crow: \$86.40 per day

Comprehensive Municipal Grant (Community Services)

- The Comprehensive Municipal Grant is how the Government of Yukon directly funds municipal governments. This core funding supplements municipal resources and pays for vital services, like the provision of fresh drinking water, the collection of solid waste and recycling, recreation programming and other services as required under the Municipal Act and other legislation.

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- The high inflation seen in 2022 (6.8 per cent) will increase the grant payments to be provided in April 2024. This will result in a \$2.3 million increase for Yukon municipalities with overall contributions of over \$24.5 million for fiscal year 2024/25.

Energy retrofits and funding to improve efficiency and offset costs (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- Our energy programs are successfully encouraging Yukon residents and local businesses to reduce their energy use, save money and choose low carbon options to live and move.
- Energy efficiency rebate programs are available for the transportation sector, renewable heating sector, and the construction sector focusing on high efficiency buildings.
- For existing homes, the Energy Branch offers the Good Energy rebate program for high performance heating systems and upgrades to thermal enclosures including insulation and windows, and high-performance new homes. Taking these measures will save homeowners money on their energy costs.
- Between January 1, 2018, and December 31st, 2023, 221 high-performance retrofits to residential, commercial and institutional buildings have been completed across the territory.
- Innovative programs like the Better Buildings Program that offer up-front funding, combined with our Good Energy rebates, make energy retrofits more accessible and affordable for Yukoners.

Support to the forestry industry (Energy, Mines and Resources)

- To help increase the supply of firewood, over the past two years the Yukon government has offered an incentive to timber harvesters. In 2022-23, the Government of Yukon distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses. The program has contributed to an increase in timber harvest volumes.

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- In fall 2023, the Government of Yukon and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency combined financial contributions to launch the \$200,000 Forestry Support Program. The program is helping to enhance operational safety and resilience by allowing commercial harvesters and retailers to purchase or repair things like harvest equipment, vehicles, trailers, and personal protective equipment.
- We have distributed over \$170,000 through this program and anticipate exhausting the funds by the application deadline of March 31, 2024.

Temporary Landlord Assistance Program (Economic Development)

- Vacancy rates in the local rental market remain very low. The Government of Yukon is committed to encouraging landlords to remain in the residential market. To help support this, the department of Economic Development introduced a temporary Landlord Assistance Program in November 2023.
- The program is available to all Yukon residential landlords who rent out accommodations to which the Yukon's Residential Landlord and Tenant Act applies and who rented out accommodation in 2023. The program provides a one-time, per-unit payment of \$338 for 2023.

Government initiatives indexed to inflation

- Higher inflation impacts various Government of Yukon programs through indexation, (indexation is updated each April unless otherwise noted), including:
 - o Comprehensive Municipal Grant Regulation (with a one-year lag)
 - o The minimum wage
 - o Subsidies for medical travel
 - o Pioneer Utility grant
 - o Residential rent caps
 - o Seniors benefits (updated each October)
 - o Social Assistance Payments (updated each November)

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- o Student Financial Assistance (updated each school year)
- o Tobacco Tax is updated each January
- o Yukon Child Benefit (July)

Covid-19 and other temporary inflation relief measures no longer in place:

Tourism and Culture:

COVID-19 Business Relief Programs

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Yukon acted quickly and decisively by implementing one of the most robust business relief programs in the country. This began with the Yukon Business Relief Program (YBRP) in 2020, which was open to any business from any sector that experienced at least a 30 per cent revenue loss due to the pandemic.
- In that same year, Tourism and Culture (T&C) also launched the Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan (TRRP), which was reviewed and endorsed by the Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB) and industry.
- The Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan committed \$15 million over 3 years to support the tourism sector and was focused on 4 key themes:
 - o Providing tourism sector leadership;
 - o Rebuilding confidence and capabilities for tourism;
 - o Supporting the recovery of tourism industry operators; and
 - o Refining the brand and inspiring travelers to visit.
- Through the TRRP, various financial support programs were rolled out during the course of the pandemic to sustain the tourism industry and prepare it for the eventual reopening of borders, including:
 - o Tourism Accommodation Sector Supplement (TASS);
 - o Tourism Non-Accommodation Sector Supplement (TNASS);
 - o Culture and Tourism Non-profit Sector Supplement;

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- Great Yukon Summer (GYS) program;
- Great Yukon Summer Freeze program;
- ELEVATE program; and
- A top-up to the Tourism Cooperative Marketing Fund (TCMF).

Health and Social Services:

- a one-time \$150 payment to social assistance recipients;
- a one-time payment of \$150 to Yukon Seniors Income Supplement recipients;
- a one-time 10 per cent additional payment to Pioneer Utility Grant recipients;
- a 6-month extension of \$500 per month to caregivers of children in out of home care; and
- a commitment of \$100,000 to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition to continue to support food security across the territory.

Approved by:

March 19, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance

Approved

Session Briefing Note

Corporate Note – Fin/HPW 2023-24 Supplementary Overview

HPW TAB#1

FIN TAB#28

Spring 2024

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

Recommended response:

- The changes outlined in the Supplementary Estimates No. 2 highlight the government's commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of Yukoners and communities. The government will continue to make important investments to support our healthcare system, enhance public safety, and provide needed infrastructure across the territory.
- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates No. 2 forecasts an overall net increase of \$32.1 million in spending. This includes:
 - A \$61.0 million increase in gross O&M spending, with an offsetting increase of \$29.4 million in recoveries, and
 - Other than a small transfer of \$143,000 in the Yukon Legislative Assembly, there is no change in overall gross capital spending, and a small decrease of \$397,000 in recoveries.
- Changes in the Supplementary Estimates result in a revised forecast surplus of \$1.7 million and year-end net debt of \$444.5 million.
- The ability to remain in a surplus position despite an increase in spending is largely owed to significant infrastructure investments:
 - Infrastructure investments, which are mostly tangible capital assets, impact net debt when they are realized. However, as they are anticipated to provide benefits over many years, their

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impact on the surplus/deficit position is recognized over their expected life.

O&M

- In O&M, the most significant increases are for programs and initiatives in the Department of Health and Social Services:
 - \$25.6 million is required for Insured Health Services for physician claims, hospital claims, pharmacare and medical travel.
 - More than \$12 million in O&M spending will increase funding for the Yukon Hospital Corporation for unanticipated costs, which are partially a result of a global shortage of health care providers and work done to retain our valuable nurses.
- Some other significant items in the supplementary estimates include:
 - \$6.7 million to sustain initiatives aimed at strengthening justice and community safety within our territory.
 - \$4.1 million to cover costs for new teachers, educational assistants, learning assistant teachers and mental health and wellness counsellors, as well as Yukon University and Governance increases.
- The 29.4 million increases in O&M recoveries are mostly comprised of a \$25 million recovery expected to be received for work completed and underway at the Minto Mine, this year.

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HPW TAB#1

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Capital

- In Capital, there is no significant change in overall expenditures, but there are increases in several projects which are offset by decreases in other areas:
 - Most of the increases are for the Dempster Fibre project, which will receive an additional \$18.4 million to support faster than anticipated progress during the year. This project will provide Yukoners with more reliable access to the internet as well as necessary redundancy.
 - There is also a \$14.6 million increase for the Nisutlin Bay Bridge Replacement project and a \$7.9 million increase for the Whitehorse airport taxiway improvements and runway replacement.
 - Finally, there will be an \$5.8 million increase is required for the Old Crow Health and Wellness Centre replacement and the Old Crow 10-unit mixed-use housing project.
- These increases are offset by a number of decreases in other capital projects to reflect revised timelines:
 - The most notable decrease is a \$21.3 million reduction for the Skagway Marine Service Platform project, which has been moved to 2025-26.

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HPW TAB#1

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- There is also an \$8 million decrease in Northern Carve Out funding, which is being deferred to 2024-25.
- Delays in some of the community projects under the infrastructure development funding will also see an additional \$7.7 million decrease in capital.

Additional Response:

- Revenues for 2023-24 are expected to decrease by \$14.9 million, mainly to reflect lower forecasts for tobacco and corporate income tax revenues and quartz mining royalties.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023-24 Supplementary Estimates #2 is tabled in the spring session and will be the subject of debate.

Approved

Signature on file	February 29, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister, Finance	_____
Signature on file	February 28, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister, HPW	_____ Approved

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission
– Update on Calls to Action**

Executive Council
Office

Recommended response:

- Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility of all governments and individuals in our society.
- Our government is deeply committed to advancing reconciliation through collaboration and partnership with Indigenous governments.
- While there is still work to do, our efforts are resulting in meaningful change and creating better programs and services for all Yukoners.
- In 2023, on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we shared our progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through the release of the Pathways magazine and an accompanying report.
- The magazine and report provide an update on the actions being taken across the Yukon government and in close collaboration with First Nation governments and organizations in areas including child welfare, health, education and justice.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments are leaders in demonstrating a collaborative approach to reconciliation.
- We will continue our collaborative work to implement and report on the Calls to Action, including through work on the Yukon Forum joint priorities and by implementing the *Putting People First* recommendations.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2023 mandate letters include a commitment to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Update on Calls to Action

Executive Council
Office

Background:

- The TRC report, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, was released in June 2015. It contains 94 Calls to Action focused on redressing the harms resulting from Residential Schools and creating better relations between the federal, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous Peoples. Thirty-two of the Calls to Action relate directly to YG.
- YG and Yukon First Nations (YFNs) collaborated on addressing the Calls to Action under the 2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan and through other reconciliation initiatives, such as supporting the important work of the YFN-led Yukon Residential Schools and Missing Children Project.
- YG has taken additional steps to address the Calls to Action, including:
 - establishing the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of First Nations Initiatives at the Department of Education, signing an agreement to establish a YFN School Board and entering into education agreements with all YFNs (speaks to Calls 7 and 10 directed to the federal government);
 - supporting Indigenous athletes and the North American Indigenous Games (Call 88);
 - implementing the YFN Procurement Policy (relates to Call 92) and the Representative Public Service Plan: *Breaking Trail Together* (relates to Call 7);
 - working with YFNs and Yukon Indigenous women's groups to implement the Yukon's *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2-Spirit+ People Strategy* (MMIWG2S+ Strategy) (relates to Call 41);
 - participating at the Trilateral Table on the Wellbeing of YFN Children and Families to address gaps for culturally appropriate parenting programs (Call 5); and
 - receiving input from YFNs on Health and Social Services programming through the Mental Health Advisory Committee (relates to Call 19).

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024 02 02

Date

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

Environment & Finance

Recommended response:

- Since its introduction in 2019, the Government of Yukon has been supportive of carbon pricing as a policy to help us reduce emissions and move toward our ambitious climate targets.
- The Department of Environment and the Department of Finance work closely to ensure that we take a balanced approach to carbon pricing in the territory, one which considers the need to reduce emissions as well as the fair return of carbon pricing revenues to Yukoners.
- Our two departments work together to coordinate with our federal counterparts to assess the implications of carbon pricing in the territory and to ensure the needs of the territory are recognized in national policy.
- This includes retaining control over how revenues are distributed back to Yukon individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations and businesses.
- It also includes excluding carbon price from electricity generation or aviation, in recognition of the unique constraints of our northern jurisdiction.

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Carbon Pricing (Corporate Note)

Environment & Finance

Additional response:

- Carbon pricing is just one tool in our toolkit to address the climate emergency.
- We continue to implement Our Clean Future to reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions and, more broadly, to reduce the impact of the carbon levy on Yukoners.
- In December of last year, we announced 42 new actions under Our Clean Future as part of the third Our Clean Future annual report outlining the progress we have made on the strategy.
- Although we have made progress on many of our commitments, there is still significant work required to meet our target of reducing our emissions by 45 per cent by 2030
- Our government continues to stand by carbon pricing as sound, evidence-based policy on climate change, but we share concerns about equity; specifically, for those Yukoners who do not use heating oil for their homes.
- The policies in Our Clean Future, as well as carbon pricing, are intended to incentivize Yukoners to make the switch to low carbon energy sources, like electric heating or heat pumps. Despite this change to the federal carbon levy, Yukoners continue to lead the way to support this low carbon transition.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Carbon Pricing
(Corporate Note)**

Environment & Finance

-
- Ensuring that we utilize every policy lever at our disposal, including carbon pricing, is essential to meet our goals.
 - Together, we are finding solutions to reduce our emissions while strengthening our economy and supporting our industry partners.

Third response:

- The Yukon's carbon rebate is revenue-neutral. We are committed to both reducing carbon emissions in the territory and to returning all the federal government's revenues to Yukoners.
- Returning proceeds to individuals, municipal governments, Yukon First Nations, and businesses is a critical part of our approach to carbon pricing in the Yukon.
- We are returning 100 per cent of the federal carbon levy to these four rebate groups who receive more, on average, than they pay in carbon pricing levies.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- In October 2023, the federal government announced a temporary 3-year exemption for home heating oil from the federal carbon price, with the intention of helping Atlantic Canada in particular.
- While Atlantic Canada welcomed this change, the exemption has received considerable backlash. Most provincial governments (except for British Columbia) have called for extending the carbon price exemption to all home-heating fuels (including natural gas).

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(Corporate Note)**

Environment & Finance

- Critics also argued that the exemption undermines the credibility of the carbon tax, and may weaken the incentives to switch to lower carbon heating options.

Background:

- The federal Draft Regulations Amending the Fuel Charge Regulations stipulate that all heating oil will be exempt from the fuel charge starting November 8, 2023, until April 2027.
- This means that light fuel oil consumption in all buildings, including residential, commercial, and institutional, will be exempt from the fuel charge.
- Nearly half (49.2% in 2022) of Yukon homes use oil-based heating.
- In Yukon, individuals, businesses, placer/quartz mining operations, Yukon First Nations governments and municipal governments are all eligible for a rebate for carbon pricing.
 - Individuals who live outside of Whitehorse receive a remote supplement, which was recently increased from 10 to 20% (and is now in line with the federal remote supplement for backstop jurisdictions including Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan).

Approved by:

Michael Prochazka, Deputy Minister of
Environment

March 1, 2024

Date approved

Deputy Minister of Finance

February 26, 2024

Date approved

Prepared for Premier Pillai, Ministers Clarke and Silver
Departments of Environment and Finance

Date prepared: January 8, 2024

Last Updated: February 22, 2024

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Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**Finance

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting Yukoners and communities while delivering strong, sustainable fiscal management.
- The Yukon's economy is returning to normal with inflation falling, tourism rebounding, and growth in wages leading to higher consumer spending.
- This budget will benefit all Yukoners by providing significant investments in health care, education, and housing, and will ensure that Yukoners have opportunities to thrive in a vibrant and sustainable economy:
 - An additional \$15.3 million in funding is included to support the operations of the Yukon Hospital Corporation and another \$30 million is directed towards our Insured Health services system.
 - \$4.4 million will help increase the number of educational support staff and wellness professionals in our schools and create a learning environment that is inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of our students.
 - \$101 million in capital is dedicated for land development, housing, education and health care.
 - This year's budget also delivers on our commitment to environmental stewardship, demonstrated through more than \$55 million allocated to support existing and new actions identified in *Our Clean Future*.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- Through Budget 2024-25, the government will continue to lay the foundation for the territory's new health authority. We will also provide funding to implement the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy* in coordination with our partners.
- This budget includes strategic investments in infrastructure, particularly in housing for the most vulnerable. Investments in housing include projects in Watson Lake, Mayo, Faro and Dawson City and funding support for various affordable and community housing projects.
- Like in previous budgets, Budget 2024-25 continues to build relationships and further reconciliation with Yukon First Nations.
- Revenue growth continues to accelerate alongside record levels of recoveries. The Yukon's strong financial position continues to improve as we look towards the future.

Additional response:

- The Yukon government is delivering on its commitment to grow a strong and resilient economy while ensuring robust, sustainable fiscal management.
- A strong surplus will serve as a prudent fiscal management tool and demonstrates the ability of the government to address unforeseen events without going into a deficit.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- The fiscal summary includes a \$50 million contingency for unforeseen pressures and emergencies. Including a contingency has been a proven method to offset the cost of expected but undefined expenditures that arise throughout the fiscal year while limiting their impact on the territory's fiscal position.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The 2024-25 Main Estimates will be debated during the March 2024 legislative session.
-

Background:

- The 2024-25 Main Estimates include a projected surplus of \$119 million and net debt of \$488.8 million.
- Total revenue is expected to be \$1.69 billion in 2024-25. This is an increase of \$115.8 million, or 7.4 per cent, from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.
- Gross O&M spending is forecast at \$1.6 billion, reflecting a \$141.4 million or 9.7 per cent increase over 2023–24 Main Estimates. Approximately 12 per cent is recoverable from Canada and other partners, making the net impact \$88.6 million, or a 6.7 per cent net increase over 2023–24 Mains.
- Forecast capital expenditures total \$484.0 million with recoveries of \$171.3 million. Although gross capital expenditures are consistent with the previous year (\$483.8 million in 2023-24) increased recoveries result in a 2.1 per cent decrease in net capital expenditures from the 2023-24 Main Estimates.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Corporate Note – Budget Highlights**

Finance

Embargoed until day of budget tabling

- There are 5,484.5 FTEs in the 2024-25 budget, which is an increase of 152.8 FTEs from 2023-24. Growth primarily for CASA Education commitments (61.0) and Health Human Resources commitments (11.5) as well as Putting People First (28.5).

Approved by:

February 28, 2024

Deputy Minister, Finance_____
Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Energy and Climate Change:

- In January 2024, we implemented a new regulation under the *Public Utilities Act* that allows the private sector in Yukon to offer electric vehicle charging services and collect user fees on the electricity sold to the public.
- In December 2023, we announced 42 new actions for **Our Clean Future**. Of these new actions, 35 are energy-related.
- As of December 2023: **achieved, completed or surpassed over a third of the climate actions** originally announced in 2020.
- As of [December](#) 2023: our **electric and renewable heating systems** transition programs saw [141 smart electric heating systems](#) installed in homes and commercial buildings. This includes **heat pumps** and **electric thermal storage units** installed in homes and commercial buildings since 2020.
- As of [December](#) 2023: issued [740](#) rebates worth over \$5.5 million for the construction of **high-performance new homes** since 2018. These energy-efficient new homes perform a minimum of 50 per cent better than the 2015 National Building Code.
- As of December 2023: achieved and surpassed the Our Clean Future goal of having seven megawatts of installed **renewable electricity** capacity through the **Micro-generation** program. This was achieved seven years ahead of schedule.
- As of December 2023: 10 renewable energy projects signed Energy Purchase Agreements per the **Independent Power Production policy**. Four solar projects are active and comprise 2.8 megawatts of installed generation capacity.

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Resources

- As of May 2023: supported **electrification and clean transportation** with a total of 19 **fast chargers** installed in 14 road-accessible Yukon communities and two subdivisions (Mendenhall and Marsh Lake). All fast chargers are available for public use and allow for travel between communities.
- January 2023: announced plans to study the **feasibility of connecting the Yukon to British Columbia's energy grid**. This would help the territory meet its growing demands for clean electricity and emissions-reduction goals.
- In 2022: **electric vehicles** were 4.3 per cent of light-duty vehicle sales. We are moving towards the targets set in Our Clean Future and Clean Energy Act of 10 per cent of light-duty Electric Vehicle sales by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030.
- November 2022: adopted the new *Clean Energy Act* that legislates greenhouse gas reduction targets. This is the territory's first energy and climate change legislation.
- October 2022: **increased Good Energy rebate** amount for household insulation upgrades to a maximum of \$26,500. April 2023: launched French version of the **Good Energy E-Rebates platform** where clients can submit online applications for their rebates.
- October 2022: launched **Better Buildings Program** offering financing for energy efficient retrofits (Joint with Community Services). As of February 16, 2023: all eight registered municipalities have signed on to deliver the Better Buildings program within their boundaries.

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Mineral Resources and Geoscience Services:

- As of January 2024: **maps detailing surficial geology and geohazards** have been released for Carmacks and the greater Whitehorse area, and mapping is nearly complete for Teslin, Beaver Creek and Haines Junction.
- In 2023, for **quartz and placer exploration projects**, we received 449 Class One notifications, issued 45 Decision Documents, and authorized eight new exploration programs. The Mineral Resources Branch initiated the review of Newmont's Quartz Mining Licence application for the Coffee Gold mine, and continued review work on the **Kudz Ze Kayah** mine application.
- In 2023, we continued to stimulate new discoveries through the **Yukon Mineral Exploration Program**. We spent \$1.4 million to support 43 mineral exploration projects that are expected to spend more than \$3.7 million on exploration this season in the territory.
- As of October 2023: instruments have been installed on **Moosehide and Sunnydale Slides** in Dawson City and on the **North Klondike Highway to monitor ground movements** to help identify landslide risk.
- August 2023: we worked with Victoria Gold Corporation when a **wildfire threatened the Eagle Gold mine** site to ensure that the environment and workers were protected during this challenging time.
- June 2023: we successfully navigated a transfer of the court appointed settlement agreement from Welichem to NorZinc for the future removal of all abandoned mine processing equipment (mill, conveyor, crushers, etc.) at the **Wolverine mine site**. The removal of assets allows for significant site remediation at minimal cost to the government.

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

- May 2023: within 24 hours of **Minto mine's** operator informing us it would be abandoning the site, we successfully mobilized the resources necessary to ensure the environment was protected. We continue to work with Selkirk First Nation on reclamation of the site.
- March 2023: announced our **mining intensity target** for the mining sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent per unit of production by 2035. This ambitious target aligns with a territory-wide greenhouse gas target of 45 per cent reduction outside the mining sector by 2030. We are working to legislate the target now.
- February 2023: Mineral Resources issued the **Guidelines for Mine Waste Management Facilities**. This guideline supports responsible design practices of critical infrastructure on mine sites and fulfils our commitments under Our Clean Future.
- October 2022: announced the territory's first **wetlands policy** (jointly with Environment). This policy supports environmentally responsible development and manages the impacts of activities, including mining, in wetlands.

Geothermal and Petroleum Resources:

- August 2023: ratified the **Western Arctic Tasiuq (Offshore) Oil and Gas Accord**. Under the Accord, the Government of Yukon has a strong role in managing resource development and environmental protection matters in waters off our northern coast.
- July 2023: Yukon Geological Survey released a new report on **geothermal energy potential** in the Teslin area.
- April 2023: initial outreach to First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups regarding geothermal resource development was

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EMR Accomplishments

Energy, Mines and
Resources

made via the Council of Yukon First Nations. Subsequent outreach occurred in October 2023 at the Lands Steering Committee table.

- February 2023: released the What We Heard report on proposed elements for **geothermal resource legislation**.
- 2022: The **North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum** signed a work plan that addresses priority oil and gas issues in the north. The work plan includes a collaborative review of current decision-making processes and tools under the Oil and Gas Act (Yukon) that apply within the traditional territories of the northern Yukon First Nations.

Forest Management:

- As of January 2024, we have permitted 44,386 cubic metres of timber to 37 operators in Quill Creek. As part of the **Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan**, we built a fuel break to expand the time operators can harvest in this area. There are harvest opportunities for all types of timber harvesters.
- August 2023: launched a new one-year **Forestry Support Program** with three tiers of funding, with \$750, \$7,500 and \$15,000 available for commercial timber harvesters and retailers. So far, we have awarded more than \$150,000 to 36 timber harvest and fuelwood retail businesses, to promote efficient and safe operations.
- July 2023: signed an **Interim Wood Supply Agreement with Liard First Nation** to jointly develop new timber harvest plans in the Scoby Creek and Poison Lake burn areas. We are working with Liard First Nation to develop a joint timber harvest plan for the Scoby Creek burn and on an enhanced vegetation inventory of the Poison Lake Burn in Southeast Yukon to support timber harvest planning.

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- July 2023: released the What We Heard report on the spring consultation and public engagement regarding recommended changes to the *Forest Resources Act and Regulation*. We are reviewing feedback with the Yukon First Nations working group and finalizing the recommended changes with the aim of tabling Act amendments in fall 2024.
- June 2023: the **Dognose project** saw 45,000 white spruce seedlings planted in the Dognose harvest area. This work is part of a silviculture treatment plan that aims to regenerate the forest cover with financial support from the 2 Billion Trees program. Summer students from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm took part in tree planting training which was a great success.
- May 2023: extended the **Timber Harvesting Incentive program** for another year. In fiscal year 2023-24, we invested \$34,000 through this program to support 19 timber harvest businesses in their work to provide fuelwood and biomass material to Yukoners (as of January 23, 2024). In 2022-23, we invested \$315,000 to support 33 businesses. As most harvesting occurs during the last quarter of the year, we anticipate spending through this program to increase dramatically over the coming weeks.
- Summer 2021 to 2023: continued to invest in **forest monitoring** through the Pan-Canadian National Forest Inventory. Federal, provincial and territorial governments participate in this program to monitor and report on the extent, state, and sustainable development of Canada's forests. The information is used to establish baseline data that informs decision making and monitors changes.

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- We are working towards the development of two potential log yard sites near Whitehorse, one in Mount Lorne area and one in Ibex Valley. These proposed sites will help to support and secure the supply chain for fuel wood and other timber products. These projects both were recommended to proceed by the YESAB and are currently in various stages of zone and plan amendments.

Land Planning:

- In 2023, we issued 84 **Development Permits** and processed nine applications for **rezoning**.
- November 2023: released the What We Heard report for the **Golden Horn minimum residential lot size** questionnaire. A zoning amendment process will follow.
- September 2023: In collaboration with the Teslin Tlingit Council, created a new area development regulation for the **Lone Tree subdivision** that will provide **23 new residential lots** in the Teslin area (an additional 17 lots will be available for lease by the Teslin Tlingit Council).
- May 2023: completed **Phase 1 of Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan**. This includes a background report as well as vision and values for the planning area. A Draft Plan is now being prepared.
- March 2023: completed the **Teslin Periphery Alaska Highway Corridor Land Development Suitability Study**.
- June 2023: released the What We Heard Report for the Recommended **Dawson Regional Land Use Plan** engagement. We continue to advance this regional land use planning process.

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- Worked with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Teslin Tlingit Council, Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations towards initiating regional land use planning processes.
- Worked with our First Nations partners to continue to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan. We remain ready to engage in Chapter 11 regional land use planning with Yukon First Nations partners when they are ready to begin the process.

Land Management:

- June 2023: completed public engagement and consultation with Indigenous groups on the proposed **resource road regulation**. We continue to work with First Nations and industry as we finalize this regulation.
- June 2023: finalized a land sale agreement with **Da Daghay Development Corporation (DDDC) for affordable housing** in Whistle Bend.
- May 2023: released **25 residential lots** by public land lottery in Carmacks, Dawson City, Destruction Bay, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo and Watson Lake. We also released one **industrial lot** in Dawson City and two **industrial lots** in Ross River available by tender. This included 17 newly developed lots as well as 11 other existing parcels.
- April 2023: released **82 single family lots** by public lottery and released **four multi-family and 33 townhouse lots** by tender in Whistle Bend. This includes both 117 newly developed lots and two lots available from previous lotteries.

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- February 2023: released the What We Heard report summarizing the public feedback on directions for the *Yukon Public Lands Act*. We continue to work collaboratively with First Nations partners through the Successor Resource Legislation Steering Committee.
- There continues to be lots available for sale over the counter throughout many communities and in Whitehorse.
- Work continues on a new Land Information Registry and Administration (LIRA) system which will modernize the process for land acquisition, lot purchases, land use permits, licenses, inspections and consultations including enhancing service delivery to Yukoners.
- March 2024: the former Macaulay Lodge site at 2 Klondike Road in Riverdale, is now rezoned, consolidated and released for sale as of March 14, 2024. The lot will provide future opportunities for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing included as an allowable secondary use.
- After a decade of planning, the 5th and Rogers parcel is being sold to West End Developments, a local group of companies providing a unique opportunity for private sector land developers to create much needed housing and meet the complex land development requirements at the site.

Agriculture:

- Since the April 2023 launch of Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the program has approved over \$1 million in funding for over 50 local projects. This funding program provides \$9.25 million

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over five years. This is a 25 per cent increase from the previous federal-territorial cost-shared agricultural funding program.

- We have made new **land available for agricultural use**:
 - In 2023: released five **land lease opportunities** available for agriculture use in the Gentian Lane area of Golden Horn and approved three **agriculture land applications** creating 67.9 hectares in Hot Springs Road and Golden Horn (Gentian Lane) areas;
 - In 2022: approved four **agriculture land applications** creating 74.8 hectares in the Haines Junction, Marsh Lake and Golden Horn areas.
- June 30, 2023: announced the one-time **Agriculture Flood Recovery Fund** offering up to \$500,000 for farmers and agricultural producers to offset relief and recovery costs from the damage and loss caused by 2023 flooding in the region around the Klondike Valley.
- Spring 2023: struck an Elk-Agriculture Steering Committee (joint with Environment, Yukon Agricultural Association and Yukon Fish and Game Association) to implement recommendations from a report on **interactions between elk and agriculture in the Takhini Valley area**.
- Spring 2023: provided support to three new private-sector **abattoirs** through funding and training sessions.
- In 2022: established a new **Livestock Extension Services unit** within the Agriculture Branch with two Livestock Health Technicians to conduct meat inspections, support and assist livestock producers and work closely with Environment's Veterinary Services Program.

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Resources

- From April 2018 through March 2023: the **Canadian Agricultural Partnership** (CAP) program provided a total of \$7.4 million in funding to nearly 500 agriculture projects in the territory. Projects allowed applicants to establish community gardens and markets, invest in farm infrastructure, buy specialized equipment, complete farm business plans and hire labour.
- We continue to coordinate the development of **regulations** under the *Animal Protection and Control Act* (joint with Environment). We engaged with the agriculture sector on the regulations between June and November 2023 and are continuing discussions as we approach finalization of the regulation.

Strategic Alliances:

- December 2023: completed an initial government-to-government phase of develop **new public lands legislation**. The legislation is being developed by the Government of Yukon, working closely with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous governments, and the Council of Yukon First Nations. The next step is to conduct public engagement on potential approaches for new lands legislation.
- May 2023: completed a public engagement that saw meetings held throughout the Yukon on approaches for **new minerals legislation**. Feedback collected will be used by the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations and transboundary First Nations as we continue to develop the legislation. A What We Heard document is being produced and will be released soon.

Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections:

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Energy, Mines and
Resources

- 2023: under the **Collaborative Stewardship Initiative**, we introduced joint water monitoring, enhanced collaboration and reporting tools, and continue to see the initiative increase capacity and cultural understanding between the Yukon government and First Nations governments.
 - In 2023 CMI conducted 12 site visits jointly with First Nations in mineral development, forestry, and land use activities.
 - June 2023: completed a final joint inspection with Kwanlin Dün First Nation on an outstanding Licence of Occupation file. The inspection was a necessary step in transferring this land back to the Yukon government.
 - July 2023: Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections staff were invited and attended both the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Council of Yukon First Nations' General Assemblies.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 14, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Staffing Information

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Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources provides a wide variety of services to the public, from agricultural leases to energy rebates to natural resource compliance checks.
- Our nine offices across the territory directly support the Yukon's communities by offering department services on location. Throughout, we emphasize service, respect, leadership and safety.
- For the 2024-25 fiscal year, we are budgeted for 294.7 full-time equivalent positions. Staffing levels remain relatively consistent throughout the year, although they increase in summer due to student programs. Through these programs, students gain new experiences as they train for future careers within the public service.

Additional response:

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank department staff who continue to do great work every day across the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been asked about the number and make-up of the department's employee base.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources is budgeted for 294.7 full-time equivalent positions in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This full-time equivalent number does not directly correspond to each position. For example, in the case of student or seasonal positions, one full-time equivalent position could support the hiring of multiple students in a summer program.

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Staffing Information

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Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- There has also been a slight increase in overall FTEs, with one permanent position in the Energy Branch supporting Our Clean Future.
- The department has 38 positions in the communities outside of Whitehorse in the district offices of the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections branch and the Mineral Resources branch.
- As of [March 8](#), 2024, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has 278 active employees, including [221](#) permanent employees, [30](#) employees in term or temporary assignment positions, [seven](#) casuals, [two](#) interns/ students and 15 auxiliary on-calls. Shifts in the department's staffing levels occur seasonally.
- The department currently has 29 employees with approved remote work agreements in place.

Approved by:

March 13, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Energy Retrofits and Assessments
OCF Actions H1, H2, H30 and L4**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response: Energy Assessments (OCF Action H2)**

- The Department of Highways and Public Works is making significant progress toward reducing the energy use of our public buildings and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction commitments in Our Clean Future.
- The department is continuing to complete energy assessments of Government of Yukon buildings to identify energy retrofits that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings (OCF Action H2).
- To date, we have assessed 81 high-emitting Government of Yukon buildings. These assessments identified more than 600 possible building energy retrofit projects.
- Of these projects, 116 have been selected based on our prioritization methodology that looks at greenhouse gas emissions, business case, and operational improvements (OCF Action L4).
- In February 2024, the department awarded a project to conduct energy assessments on the 36 remaining buildings that are currently classified as high-emitting government buildings. We expect this work to be completed by December 2024.
- Highways and Public Works is also partnering with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Vuntut Gwitchin Government to improve the energy use data in Old Crow.
- In Summer 2023, fuel and electricity meters were installed in all 11 Government of Yukon buildings in Old Crow. This information will

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2024

Energy Retrofits and Assessments
OCF Actions H1, H2, H30 and L4

Highways and
Public Works

allow us to further identify energy conservation and renewable energy opportunities in Old Crow.

Additional response: Retrofits (OCF Actions H1 +L4)

- Highways and Public Works is investing in retrofits to government buildings to reduce energy use and contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Since the launch of Our Clean Future, 31 building energy retrofits have been completed using the Small Communities Fund. These projects are estimated to reduce 225 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.
- Yukon University roof replacement is also underway, which is anticipated to be complete in 2026. This project is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 137 tonnes per year.
- As we complete the remaining energy assessments, we will incorporate the resulting projects into the existing project list and adjust the priority and sequencing as required.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Energy retrofits and assessments are action items under Our Clean Future.

Approved by:	
	March 21, 2024
Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works	Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

SPRING 2024

Renewable Energy Projects (Biomass and Solar) OCF Actions H17 and E4

Highways and
Public Works

Recommended response: General

- Investing in renewable energy projects is one of the many initiatives that the Yukon government is undertaking to meet the goals of Our Clean Future.
- In 2023, we completed construction of the Elijah Smith Elementary School biomass system and partnered with Teslin Tlingit Council to heat the Khàtìnas.àxh [Kaw keen ah sa] Community School with biomass heat.
- These biomass systems have been operational since October 2023 and are anticipated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 259 tonnes per year.
- We are also excited to be nearing completion of the expansion of Whitehorse Correctional Centre's district biomass system, and the completion of two solar and battery systems in off-grid highway maintenance camps on the Dempster Highway.
- These projects together will offset a total of 541 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually, with 271 tonnes for the biomass project and 270 tonnes for the solar projects.
- We have completed 12 renewable energy feasibility studies to evaluate biomass, geothermal and other renewable heating options at 66 sites across the territory.
- These studies will identify several renewable energy projects that could be constructed over the next several years.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Renewable Energy Projects
(Biomass and Solar)
OCF Actions H17 and E4**Highways and
Public Works**Additional response: Biomass (H17)**

- Biomass systems use renewable fuels to displace the use of fossil fuels and reduce our overall emissions.
- Installing renewable heat sources in government buildings is one of our commitments under Our Clean Future (Action H17). The Yukon government has, and is continuing to make significant investments in renewable energy like biomass.
- This past August, the new biomass heating system was completed at Elijah Smith Elementary School in Whitehorse. Planning for this project began in 2020 after engagement with the local biomass industry.
- Based on industry feedback, we used a build-operate-maintain model to leverage expertise from the biomass experts. Overall project costs were \$2.6 million, and it has been providing most of the heat for the building since October 2023.
- Highways and Public Works is expanding the biomass heating system at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. This project is partially supported by federal funding, with up to 75 per cent of the project costs to be recovered from the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund.
- The project expands the existing wood pellet heating system at Whitehorse Correctional Center to heat two more buildings: Takhini Haven and Young Offenders Facility.
- We are expecting it to be substantially completed this summer, with overall costs estimated to be around \$4.4 million.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Renewable Energy Projects
(Biomass and Solar)**Highways and
Public Works***OCF Actions H17 and E4***

- These projects are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 424 tonnes per year.
- We have partnered with Teslin Tlingit Council to begin heating the Teslin Khàtinas.àxh [Kaw keen ah sa] Community School with biomass in October 2023, which will reduce emissions by 106 tonnes each year.
- We are purchasing biomass heat from the biomass system owned and operated by Teslin Tlingit Council to offset heating oil consumption at the school.
- This project directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and supports the community's renewable energy initiative.
- Highways and Public Works is moving ahead with projects based on the completed renewable energy feasibility studies. The next upcoming project will be the installation of a biomass district heating system in Haines Junction.
- This project is partially supported by federal funding, with 75 per cent of the project costs to be recovered from the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund.
- Engineering design work for this project is in progress, with construction planned for 2025. Preliminary calculations estimate this project will reduce emissions by 73 tonnes each year.
- These four biomass systems combined will reduce emissions by over 603 tonnes each year.

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Renewable Energy Projects
(Biomass and Solar)
OCF Actions H17 and E4**Highways and
Public Works**Additional response: Renewable Electricity (E4)**

- One of the commitments of Our Clean Future is to install renewable energy systems in off-grid government buildings to reduce reliance on diesel-generated electricity (OCF Action E4).
- In June 2024, we will be installing batteries at the Klondike and Ogilvie highway maintenance camps to complete the two solar array system projects. These two projects will offset approximately 103,000 litres of diesel fuel each year and reduce emissions by 270 tonnes.
- We are also moving forward with solar energy projects at the Tuchitua and Blanchard highway maintenance camps. The tenders for these projects have recently closed and are currently being evaluated. These projects will offset approximately 98,000 liters of fuel and reduce emissions by 260 tonnes per year.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- Renewable energy systems are an important way for the Yukon government to reduce emissions from its buildings. They are also an OCF commitment.

Background:

- The majority of greenhouse gas emissions in Yukon Government buildings come from the combustion of heating fossil fuels such as heating oil and propane.
- Heating oil has the highest environmental impact compared to other heating fuels. Highways and Public Works is reducing heating oil consumption with cleaner fuels such as propane and renewable fuels such as biomass.

Biomass systems:

- We have listened to the Yukon's biomass industry. We have numerous biomass projects in design and construction stages.

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SPRING 2024

Renewable Energy Projects (Biomass and Solar)

Highways and
Public Works

OCF Actions H17 and E4

- The systems constructed are designed to use either local wood chips or imported wood pellets. This provides the service provider with the flexibility to ensure reliable and sustainable operations of the biomass heating system.
- Locally and sustainably harvested wood chips are a good option for renewable heating in the Yukon.
- In 2023, wood pellets were 100 per cent sourced from waste wood or from a byproduct of lumber mills that is diverted from landfills.
- Although the use of biomass fuel will require more frequent deliveries compared to fossil fuels, the increased emissions from transportation are very small compared to the greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved from switching to a cleaner fuel source.

Biomass – Elijah Smith Elementary School

- In July 2021, we engaged with biomass contractors to discuss our plans for the Elijah Smith School biomass project and to listen to their suggestions and feedback.
- Construction of the Elijah Smith biomass system was completed by Budget Plumbing and Heating for \$2.5 million. The contractor is providing operations and maintenance services for the system going forward.

Biomass – Whitehorse Correction Centre

- In November 2022, a contract was awarded for the Whitehorse Correctional Center biomass expansion project.
- The project will connect underground piping from Takhini Haven and the Young Offenders Facility to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre that has an operational biomass boiler with additional capacity.
- The system currently uses low-carbon wood pellets made from the waste of a sawmill in Northern Alberta.
- The number of wood pellet deliveries will increase from 5 to 10 per year for this project. The emissions from these trips will be primarily offset by the

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SPRING 2024

Renewable Energy Projects
(Biomass and Solar)
OCF Actions H17 and E4

Highways and
Public Works

corresponding reduction in heating oil and propane deliveries from Northern BC and Alaska.

Biomass – Teslin Khatinas.àxh [Kaw keen ah sa] Community School

- The Teslin Khatinas.àxh [Kaw keen ah sa] Community School biomass heating system will help reduce emissions by an additional 106 tonnes each year.
- This renewable energy partnership will help to support a green economy in the community.

Approved by:

April 29, 2024

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Biomass

#56
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is taking action to reduce the Yukon's dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- We are supporting initiatives to maximize the use of locally harvested wood to meet our heating needs and grow our biomass industry.
- We are working to identify biomass opportunities and projects that align with our climate goals.

Additional response:

- Commercial timber harvesting activities, fuel abatement projects and other land clearings create opportunities for harvested materials to supply the Yukon's biomass industry.
- We are working with First Nations and industry to identify a sustainable, long-term timber supply to fulfill a variety of needs, including biomass business development.
- There are several examples of existing biomass facilities in Whitehorse, including the Whitehorse Correctional Facility, Yukon Gardens, Raven Recycling, Nuway Crushing, the Hobah Apartments and the Elijah Smith School.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The public may be interested in how the Government of Yukon is supporting the growth of the Yukon's biomass energy industry including the use of waste products.
- There is industry interest in developing biomass at a scale that provides sufficient investment opportunities.

Session Briefing Note

Biomass

#56
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Biomass involves burning wood chips, pellets and/or fuel wood in a boiler system to generate heat. Biomass systems can use wood by-products from timber harvesting and land-clearing activities that would otherwise be wasted.
- Land clearing activities that may contribute to the availability of biomass include lot developments, highway right-of-way maintenance, and wildfire fuel abatement.
- The Government of Yukon is continuing to explore opportunities to grow the biomass industry to support the Yukon's climate change goals.
- Dawson City and the Village of Teslin currently use biomass boiler systems to provide heat to several buildings.

Approved by:

January 30, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

#57
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is working with First Nations and industry to understand and resolve wood supply challenges for Yukoners.
- Near Haines Junction, over 43,000 cubic metres of timber is permitted to dozens of operators under the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan.
- In the Carmacks area, there are several active licenses and almost 20,000 cubic metres of fuel wood currently available for harvest.
- In Watson Lake, we are working with Liard First Nation on forestry planning. We recently submitted a joint project to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board to harvest 17,100 cubic metres of fire-killed timber in the Scoby Creek area, the project is currently in the Seeking Views and Information stage.
- When Quill Creek was first developed, the area was closed yearly on April 1 to reduce fire risk. With the completion of the fuel break, that date restriction is no longer in effect. Summer harvesting can commence after August 15 in the Quill Creek THP, depending on the level of fire risk.
- Many of the areas where we permit harvesting timber are wet. Seasonal closures during spring break-up protect roads and prevent damage to the environment.
- There are summer harvesting opportunities in most districts. We encourage harvesters to reach out to the Forest Management Branch to identify suitable areas that meet their needs.

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

#57
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Resources

Additional response:

- We are working with First Nations to implement the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan and to review older timber harvest plans in the Southern Lakes area.
- We are supporting Wildland Fire Management on the creation of fuel breaks, which have expanded harvesting opportunities near Whitehorse and Haines Junction and resulted in a flow of wood products to the Yukon market.
- We are seeing success with our approach – from 2021 to last year, the annual volume of harvested fuel wood increased from approximately 10,000 to over 19,000 cubic metres.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Since 2020 there have been questions about how the Government of Yukon manages its forest resources to address firewood supply and affordability challenges.
- Creekside Wood Supply, a timber harvesting company based in Whitehorse, has indicated they are [concerned with the](#) lack of wood supply in the Whitehorse and Southern Lakes area.

Background:

Fuelwood supply and planning

- The Yukon has four forest resource management plans and dozens of timber harvest plans, which establish the framework for where and how timber can be harvested.
- Volumes of harvested fuel wood between 2021 and 2023 has increased from approximately 10,000 to over 19,000 cubic metres annually.

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

#57
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake)

- Planning is underway with Liard First Nation to ensure there is a supply of harvested fuel wood available for Watson Lake and other Yukon communities, and to support local small-scale lumber mills.
- The Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan was approved to provide an immediate fuel wood and saw log supply of up to 2,735 cubic metres of fire-killed timber to Watson Lake.
- Planning is underway with Liard First Nation to advance a timber harvest plan in the Poison Lake burn area. This area will provide fuel wood and saw logs.

Whitehorse and Southern Lakes

- The 2020 Whitehorse and Southern Lakes Forest Resources Management Plan was approved by the Government of Yukon, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Carcross/Tagish First Nation.
- At the same time, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was developed between Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Yukon to address concerns Carcross/Tagish First Nation expressed about the plan. The MOU outlines tasks required for Carcross/Tagish First Nation's support of the plan.
- The plan implementation team has not met since 2022 because Carcross/Tagish First Nation was concerned about lack of action on the tasks identified in the MOU.
- In fall 2023, the Forest Management Branch began meeting with Carcross/Tagish First Nation to advance work on our commitments in the MOU.
- In February 2024, the Forest Management Branch sent letters inviting the Southern Lakes First Nations to reconvene the implementation working group.
- The Forest Management Branch is [developing new timber harvest plans for Marsh Lake and Lubbock timber harvest plans to contribute to wood supply demands in Whitehorse and Southern Lakes area](#). These areas have the potential to provide primarily saw logs and some fuel wood harvest.

Session Briefing Note

Wood Supply and Planning

#57
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Resources

- New commercial harvesting areas are being identified for timber harvest planning in Whitehorse that will support the fuel abatement activities in Whitehorse.
- The Forest Management Branch is engaging with Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Champagne Aishihik First Nations to identify harvesting opportunities in the Takhini Bridge fire area.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

May 2, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Forest Resources Act Review

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In spring 2023, we completed consultation and public engagement on the Forest Resources Act with First Nations governments, renewable resources councils, industry and Yukoners. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.
- The Forest Resources Act Review Working Group considered feedback from the consultation and is developing final recommended changes to the Act and Regulation.
- Proposed changes include streamlining and modernizing licensing, permitting and enforcement, and better aligning the legislation with Indigenous treaties and other consultation requirements.

Additional response:

- I want to thank the working group members for their work on the review.
- Simplifying the forest tenure system is a proposed change that may help to address wood supply challenges in the territory.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Forest Resources Act review was initiated in 2017. Questions may arise regarding the time taken to complete the review.

Background:

- This review is legally required under the 2011 Forest Resources Act.
- The Forest Resources Act Review Working Group consists of representatives from the Government of Yukon, Teslin Tlingit Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Forest Resources Act Review

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Acho Dene Koe First Nation.

- The working group provided early engagement opportunities in 2020 to Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, renewable resources councils and stakeholders, including the Yukon Wood Products Association.
- The working group identified and discussed policy issues around planning, tenure and enforcement, which are the three pillars of the Act.
- Working group members brought forward additional items for discussion and all recommendations were made by consensus.
- The period for spring 2023 consultation and engagement was extended in response to requests from some First Nations governments and renewable resource councils.
- The working group is preparing to submit its final recommendations to the Government of Yukon for changes to the *Forest Resources Act* and *Regulation*.

Approved by:**January 30, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Forestry Sector Status and Supports

#59
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We continue to offer support to the fuelwood industry to increase the capacity, efficiency and stability of commercial timber harvesters and encourage the startup of new businesses.
- In 2023/24, we distributed \$237,541 through the Timber Harvest Incentive program.
- The Government of Yukon, in partnership with the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, launched the Yukon Forestry Support Program in fall 2023.
- The Yukon Forestry Support Program helped timber harvesters and fuel wood retailers increase their efficiency, operational safety, and resiliency. In 2023/2024, this program provided [\\$210,323](#) to [51](#) businesses.

Additional response:

- We are working towards the development of two potential log yard sites near Whitehorse, one in the Mount Lorne area and one in Ibex Valley.
- We continue to explore other potential sites in and around the City of Whitehorse.
- Securing sites for log processing and storage will help to support the supply chain for fuel wood and other timber products.

Session Briefing Note

Forestry Sector Status and Supports

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Spring 2024
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Resources

- We carefully consider public feedback before decisions are made regarding developments.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Fuel wood harvesting and processing are essential services for Yukoners and there has been concern about access and affordability of firewood in the Yukon.

Background:

- In 2022/23, the Government of Yukon distributed \$315,000 to 33 Yukon businesses under the Timber Harvest Incentive program. The program supports timber harvesters to increase the supply of firewood in the Yukon.
- That program provides registered Yukon businesses with \$10 for each cubic metre of timber harvested or sold, between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.
- Log yards help businesses stockpile and maintain sufficient inventory of wood, reduce delivery time and fuelwood costs, and provide a place to dry green timber.
- In July 2023, the proposed Kookatsoon log yard for firewood processing and storage received the recommendation to proceed with terms and conditions from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. In April 2024, a zoning amendment was approved to allow the activity. The lease process is underway to make the area available to industry.
- In October 2023, the proposed Ibex Biomass Hub for firewood and biomass processing and storage received the recommendation to proceed from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. The Forest Management Branch issued the Decision Document on January 22, 2024. A zoning amendment is underway and a public meeting took place on April 17, 2024.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

May 2, 2024
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Chance Oil and Gas Limited holds 10 active oil and gas permits in the Eagle Plains area.
- In February 2024, the Government of Yukon granted a 30-month extension to eight oil and gas permits held by Chance Oil and Gas Limited. The permits new expiry date is August 2026.
- We continue to meet with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on oil and gas matters, including Chance [Oil and Gas Limited's](#) obligations, through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum.

Additional response:

- The permit extension does not authorize Chance Oil and Gas [Limited](#) to carry out any oil and gas exploration or development activities.
- The permit extension is consistent with the Yukon's oil and gas regulatory framework and affected First Nations were consulted.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions pertaining to Chance Oil and Gas [Limited's](#) permits.
-

Background:

- Chance Oil and Gas Limited currently holds 10 oil and gas permits in the Eagle Plains basin.
 - Two permits are set to expire in 2027.
 - Eight permits have been granted a 30-month extension set to expire in August 2026.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Chance Oil and Gas

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- All of Chance Oil and Gas Limited's eight wells are currently suspended.
- A benefits agreement between affected First Nations, the Government of Yukon and Chance Oil and Gas [Limited](#) was signed in December 2023. A benefits agreement is required prior to the issuance of a license for oil and gas activities, including abandonment.
- In July 2022, the Government of Yukon issued a decision to support Chance Oil and Gas Limited's well abandonment and flow test work program. This decision was made based on a review under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- In 2021, the Government of Yukon issued two orders under the *Oil and Gas Act* for Chance [Oil and Gas Limited](#) to abandon or put back into production its eight wells by May 31, 2023. Chance Oil and Gas Limited did not comply with the orders by the deadline.
- New orders were issued under the *Oil and Gas Act* to Chance Oil and Gas Limited on April 5, 2024. These orders have conditions of enhanced reporting requirements and require the company to abandon, partially abandon, or return to operation its eight wells by May 31, 2027.
- Discussions with Chance Oil and Gas Limited are currently in progress regarding [these](#) new compliance orders and their proposed well abandonment and flow test work program.
- In 2017, Chance Oil and Gas Limited sought legal action against the Government of Yukon regarding its moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. This matter is currently before the Supreme Court of Yukon.

Approved by:**April 30, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: March 7, 2024
Last Updated: April 29, 2024

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Session Briefing Note Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- As a source of renewable energy, geothermal resources have the potential to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.
- The Government of Yukon is in the early stages of developing geothermal legislation to establish a regulatory regime for this resource.
- Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments have shown interest in collaborating on the development of new geothermal resources legislation.

Additional response:

- We have invested \$3.4 million to assess geothermal potential in the Yukon over the last three years, with financial support from the Government of Canada.
- We have recently completed geothermal studies in collaboration with Liard First Nation, Kluane First Nation, and Teslin Tlingit Council, and we have ongoing research underway with Champagne and Aishihik First Nation.
- While geothermal research and policy development is underway, geothermal resource production is several years away for the Yukon.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be a request for an update on geothermal research and progress on the new geothermal legislation.

TOC

Session Briefing Note

Geothermal Energy and Legislation

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- As of Spring 2024, the work to develop geothermal legislation is in the preliminary policy development stage.
- Under Our Clean Future, the Government of Yukon committed to developing geothermal legislation by 2023 and to researching the potential to develop geothermal energy for heating and electricity by 2025. (See BN #32 and #33)
- Between June and September 2022, we held a public engagement on geothermal resource legislation; the resulting What We Heard Report was released in February 2023.
- Pressure on human resources for both the Government of Yukon and First Nations partners regarding the development of successor natural resource legislation has extended the timeline for a geothermal regulatory framework.
- Regional data collection is also being conducted to characterize geothermal heat flow on a territory-wide scale.
- Aside from power generation, potential uses of geothermal energy include heating for greenhouses (food security), aquaculture, heating municipal drinking water, de-icing runways, and food processing.
- Research on geothermal potential indicates the southwestern and south-central regions have higher potential than other regions of the territory.
- Studies have been recently published on the geothermal potential near the communities of Burwash Landing, Watson Lake and Teslin, and research is underway to assess the potential near Haines Junction and Whitehorse.
- There are many tools and techniques used to produce geothermal resources. We are still assessing what tools and techniques may be applicable in the Yukon.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 30, 2024

Date approved

TOC

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Kotaneelee Well L-38 is an orphaned well that transferred to the Government of Yukon in 2015.
- The Government of Yukon is responsible for the Kotaneelee Well L-38 well abandonment process.
- In August 2023, we inspected Well L-38, performed routine maintenance work on the wellhead and completed site improvements. We continue to inspect the well annually.

Additional response:

- Paramount Resources Ltd. completed the surface abandonment of the three wells it was responsible for in 2021.
- All other wells in the Kotaneelee gas field have been abandoned by their operators.
- The Kotaneelee gas field plant has been decommissioned by its primary operator and the area will be reclaimed in the future.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The Government of Yukon receives periodic questions about Kotaneelee gas field.

Background:

- The Kotaneelee gas field is located in the Liard basin in southeast Yukon. Infrastructure included a gas plant, pipelines and natural gas wells. The Kotaneelee field no longer produces gas and all facilities have been shut-in, suspended or abandoned.

Session Briefing Note

Kotaneelee Gas Field

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and Resources

- The Government of Yukon became the owner of the Kotaneelee L-38 well when the previous owner became insolvent.
- The L-38 well is a sour gas, high temperature and high pressure well. It is shut-in, but has not been suspended or abandoned.
- Multiple oil companies own the Kotaneelee gas plant facility, which has been shut-in. The remaining gas plant site facilities will be removed and the area will be reclaimed in the future.
- Joint owners of the gas plant facility include Paramount, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil and Repsol, with Paramount as the majority owner and primary contact for regulatory matters.
- Repsol is currently in the process of liquidating its share of Kotaneelee assets, of which it owned approximately 2 per cent. The assets were sold to Peyto Energy Corporation in 2023.
- The Pointed Mountain Pipeline was the Kotaneelee gas transmission line. It ceased operation in 2015 when the Kotaneelee gas field ended production.
- [In 2022](#), Enbridge, the current owner of the Pointed Mountain Pipeline, received the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation to proceed with abandoning the pipeline.
- [In 2023](#), the Government of Yukon issued a decision document authorizing Enbridge to proceed with abandoning the pipeline.
- [In December 2023, Enbridge submitted a proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board expanding the scope of their 2022 submission to include an additional winter road, use of an additional water source, and ice bridge construction. The project is in the evaluation stage until May 1, 2024.](#)
- Enbridge is currently awaiting a further decision from the Canadian Energy Regulator that would allow it to proceed with the work, which is planned to begin in late [2024 or early 2025](#).

Session Briefing Note
Kotaneelee Gas Field

#63
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

April 30, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore)
Oil and Gas Accord**Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon supports the protection of the Arctic's ecosystem as well as a strong, sustainable, and viable Arctic economy.
- On August 10, 2023, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation ratified the Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore) Accord alongside the governments of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Canada.
- Under the Accord, the Government of Yukon is a partner with a strong role in the management of resource development and environmental protection in our northern coastal waters.

Additional response:

- The moratorium on offshore oil and gas development in Canada's Arctic is still in place.
- The new governance structure in place under the Accord strengthens our collective role in consultation and decision-making related to the moratorium.
- The Accord gives the Government of Yukon a voice in national offshore oil and gas management, regulation and, if development occurs, will ensure that the Yukon's socio-economic and environmental interests are respected.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the status of the offshore oil and gas accord and whether it has been signed by the Government of Yukon.

Background:

- The Beaufort Sea, on the Yukon's north coast, has significant oil and gas resources.
- The Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore) Accord is a co-management and revenue-sharing agreement between the Parties. Shared management and regulation will be implemented in three phases.
- Phase 1. The Pre-Implementation Phase remains in effect until the Accord is implemented in legislation. The Minister of Northern Affairs consults with the Accord's signatories to manage oil and gas matters in the Accord area.
- Phase 2. The Transitional Phase begins when the Accord is enacted into law. It will establish an executive co-management committee of Ministers from Canada, the Yukon and Northwest Territories governments and a representative from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.
- Phase 3. If the moratorium lifts and development is proposed for the region, an Independent Joint Board would be created and constituted in legislation.
- The Accord will be formalized in new federal legislation, a process that is in its early stages and involves all the parties to the Accord.

The Arctic Offshore Moratorium

- In 2016, the Government of Canada enacted an indefinite moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Arctic. For its duration, the moratorium will be reviewed every five years, with the next review due in 2028.
- The Accord binds the federal government to consult the other parties on the five-year reviews of the moratorium.
- In 2019, the Parties established a Five-Year Review Committee to undertake a science-based five-year review of the federal moratorium.
- In February 2022, the Committee completed a draft *Report of the Western Arctic Review Committee* which was publicly released in December 2023.

Session Briefing Note

**Western Arctic-Tariuq (Offshore)
Oil and Gas Accord**

**#64
Spring 2024**

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

January 29, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

5th and Rogers

#67
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The 5th and Rogers lot provides a unique opportunity for private sector land developers to create much needed housing and to revitalize this downtown Whitehorse area.
- The 5th and Rogers parcel is being sold to West End Developments, a local group of companies: Da Daghay Development Corporation, Kobayashi and Zedda Architects, Northern Vision Development, and Ketza Construction.
- Along with meeting housing needs, First Nations developers and local companies will benefit from the opportunity to develop this land. The project will be renamed Kèjān + Rogers, which reflects a collective path towards reconciliation.
- West End Developments has a vision for the development of this site, namely, to provide housing and commercial space.

Additional Response:

- The sale of this site for one dollar requires the purchaser to take on the liabilities and costs associated with development, including the cost of mitigating slope stability, management of contaminants, removal of existing buildings and relocation of power lines.
- West End Developments will be working towards acquiring permits and approvals with the City of Whitehorse to commence development of the site in the months ahead.

Session Briefing Note

5th and Rogers

#67
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The company will focus initial work on preparing the site, addressing slope stability, removing old buildings, installing sewer and water services, and building roads.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The sale of the 5th and Rogers parcel was announced March 14, 2024 and may result in questions.
-

Background:

- The 5th and Rogers site has the potential to accommodate large-scale residential development. The site has been unused since the 1960s.
- The parcel is zoned Mixed Use Commercial which supports a range of commercial and residential uses. Current maximum building height allowances range from 15m to 25m throughout the site.
- Development must conform to an existing risk-based restoration permit and prior to any housing development, West End Developments will implement geohazard mitigations to protect the site from potential future slope failures.
- West End Developments was the only company to apply during the spring 2023 lot release. Energy, Mines and Resources has been working with the company since that time.
- As outlined in the Agreement for Sale, West End Developments is required to meet several conditions with the 5th and Rogers property. Those include:
 - Current buildings located on the Property are demolished within three years of title transfer;
 - Ground-work is completed with three years of title transfer, in accordance with the risk-based restoration permit; and
 - Residential units are being constructed within five years of title transfer.

Session Briefing Note
5th and Rogers

#67
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

March 14, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are assessing and managing gravel and other granular materials in the territory to meet the long-term needs of Yukoners.
- The Whitehorse area continues to experience intense development, including building and road construction.
- This development comes with a corresponding increase in the demand for granular material.

Additional response:

- We are working with the City of Whitehorse to seek out new areas for quarry development and to optimize existing quarry lease sites.
- Quarry leases provide economic opportunities for First Nations and local businesses to provide granular material for a wide range of needs.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Increasing development in Whitehorse means granular material is in high demand.

Background:**Current granular resources**

- Energy, Mines and Resources manages 18 privately held quarry leases in Whitehorse, including one lease site along the Copper Haul Road that was recently approved.
- The department also manages four public gravel pits in the Whitehorse area that provides Yukoners up to 35 cubic metres of free granular material for personal non-commercial use.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Whitehorse Gravel Availability

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The City of Whitehorse leased two quarries near Ear Lake to private industry; both are now depleted.
- A review of granular resources in Whitehorse and updated surficial mapping has been completed and will inform future planning for gravel.

Stevens Quarry

- The City of Whitehorse approved its Official Community Plan on March 27, 2023, changing the designation of the Stevens Quarry area from Natural Resource Extraction to Future Planning.
- There is no expectation of development at Stevens Quarry in the near term.
- Two projects have been submitted to YESAB for the development of Stevens Quarry; the first in 2012 by the Yukon government, and a second project in 2020 by a private proponent, Norcope Enterprises. Neither project received regulatory approval to proceed.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 29, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Lots Released Last Year:

- In spring 2023, we released 117 Whistle Bend lots. Of those, 82 lots were for single-family homes, 33 lots for townhouse development and 4 lots for multi-residential development.
- Last spring we also released 28 residential, country residential, and industrial lots in the communities. Of those, 17 were newly developed lots.
- The 5th and Rogers parcel was released by tender in Spring 2023 and the purchase agreement was signed in early March 2024. (See BN #67)

Current Initiatives:

- On April 17 we released through lottery and tender 130 new lots in Phase 7 of Whistle Bend and are planning up to 67 other lots in communities throughout the Yukon in 2024. This includes the release of up to 15 lots in Grizzly Valley, 21 country residential lots in Lone Tree subdivision, and two Teslin Airport industrial lots.
- In Riverdale, 2 Klondike Road, the site of the former Macaulay Lodge, has been released through a tender which closed on April 4, 2024. The lot was rezoned to allow for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing included as a secondary use. (See BN #72)

Session Briefing Note

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Through the sale of the 5th and Rogers parcel, now known as Kèjān and Rogers, site planning can be advanced through permitting with the City of Whitehorse.
- Several significant projects in the City of Whitehorse are in the planning, design or construction stage which will help address housing pressures in the territory.
- As of April 2, 2024, there are lots available for over-the-counter sale in Haines Junction, Watson Lake, Whitehorse and in the Silver Trail subdivision north of Mayo. These include lots that were purchased through past lotteries and then returned by the purchaser.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There continues to be high demand for building lots within Whitehorse and across the territory.

Background:

Development and sale process

- Energy, Mines and Resources continues to work in partnership with Community Services, municipalities and First Nations on land development projects to meet lot supply needs.
- Energy, Mines and Resources Land Management Branch sells new lots developed across the territory by Community Services' Land Development Branch.
- The sale of developed lots occurs once development work is complete. Before lots can be sold, legal requirements such as registering the legal survey and titling the lot must be met.

Session Briefing Note

Lot Sales and Support for Housing and Development

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Working with the City Housing and Land Development Advisory Committee we revised requirements to allow builders to obtain title to lots under Agreement for Sale earlier in the building process, prior to occupancy approval.

Our work supporting housing

- Phase 7 in Whistle Bend includes 87 single family lots, two multi-family lots, and 41 new townhouse lots (6 townhouse lots [from a previous phase are also included in the release](#)).
- The Government of Yukon entered into an Agreement for Sale with Da Daghay Development Corporation for Lot 120 in Whistle Bend in January 2023. This sale included the requirement to develop affordable rental housing units on the lot in exchange for a reduced lot sale price.
- In July 2022, Lot 335 in Whistle Bend was sold to Council of Yukon First Nations for a nominal amount to build a shelter for Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. Construction is ongoing on this project.
- The Government of Yukon continues discussions with and support for the Northern Community Land Trust model of affordable housing.

Approved by:

April 24, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended Response:

- Whitehorse is growing community, and we expect long-term demand for housing to continue. The Land Development branch (LDB) works with the City of Whitehorse to create neighbourhoods that meet this demand, including the beautiful and vibrant neighbourhood of Whistle Bend.
- We also work with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) and Kwanlin Dun First Nation (KDFN) to support their land development objectives, like Range Point Road.
- We have completed construction of Whistle Bend Phase 7, which will make 130 new lots available including: 87 single family, 41 townhouse, and 2 multi-family.

Additional response:

- Construction of Phases 9, 12 and 13 will continue this year. These phases also contain two lift stations.
- When land development is complete, Whistle Bend will provide a full-service, sustainable neighborhood of about 2,000 lots, which could provide homes for about 10,000 people to accommodate our growing population.

Context:

- Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in Whitehorse is of high interest to the public.
-

Background:

New Residential Infill Parcels

- There is a range of land development work underway in Whitehorse, including continued Whistle Bend development and feasibility, planning, and design work for development on numerous Whitehorse sites identified or supported in the City's new Official Community Plan.
- LDB will work with the city to consider feasibility work in 2024 on Council-supported or OCP-compliant parcels within the city. The feasibility work would determine if the sites were suitable for development, and if they are suitable may be prioritized for high-level master plan process and public engagement.

Copper Ridge Parcels 519/520

- This site is identified in the City's new OCP as future residential. LDB led completion of the feasibility and infrastructure capacity work and the City led a high-level master plan process that is nearing completion.
- The proposed option is to release this site to target potential private sector developers.

Joint YG-KDFN Range Point Road

- LDB and KDFN have worked in partnership to complete the master plan, YESAA and zoning for this medium to high density development. This partnership will continue through detailed design, which was tendered in February 2024, and construction, which has tender target of Fall 2024 to allow for clearing and groundwork next winter.
- This will provide up to 400 units of housing.

Whistle Bend South Bench

- This site, located between Whistle Bend Way and Range Road, is identified as a future development site in the City's OCP.
- LDB has completed feasibility work (geotechnical, noise and dust studies, heritage).

- The project could be brought forward for high-level master plan process including public engagement.

North/South Future Growth Areas

- These two areas – Long Lake and Maclean Lake – are identified in the City's OCP as future development areas in Whitehorse.
- LDB is the coordination lead for feasibility studies, building on initial feasibility reports completed in 2017. The work is being carried out under a Joint-KDFN-TKC-City-YG MOU, through a joint work plan and working group.
- Completion of feasibility work is targeted for December 2024 to enable high-level master plan process and public engagement to potentially start in 2025.

Valleyview South Master Plan (including Tank Farm)

- The City-led multi-owner master plan is set to go to City Council in Spring 2024.
- The site is identified in the OCP to provide a significant source of housing units up until 2040.
- To date YG has participated in the planning as a minor landowner within the plan area. YG's contribution has been land (in the plan area) for common infrastructure such as storm water bioswale and lift stations sites.

Approved by:

February 26, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Recommended response:

- Yukon is made up of vibrant and growing communities that require a supply of available building lots to allow families and businesses to grow and thrive. We collaborate with municipalities, First Nations, and the private sector to help meet this need.
- This season we have forwarded more than 60 lots outside of Whistle Bend for release, some in every Yukon municipality, and many more projects are underway. Highlights include: the Carmacks Prospector extension, various Faro and Mayo infill lots, the Lone Tree subdivision near Teslin, and the last phase of Grizzly Valley.
- Community Services is advancing additional projects in every municipality in the Yukon, helping to guide the land development process from feasibility, to planning, to construction, and final lot preparation.
- Construction highlights this summer will include the 43 lot Francis Avenue Extension in Watson Lake, and the first phase of the 44 lot Willow Acres expansion in Haines Junction.

Additional Response (Willow Acres):

- The land clearing work underway in Haines Junction will create 44 new serviced residential lots in Haines Junction.
- The Village of Haines Junction is anticipated to grow by 63% between 2022 and 2040. This development will introduce a significant number of new serviced lots to the market, facilitating the community's growth in a deliberate and sustainable manner.

- The Haines Junction Council adopted the master plan for this project, and all the current and eventual work on the site is guided by the approved master plan.
 - The subdivision construction, including the initial land clearing, is required to install water mains, sanitary sewer mains, support stormwater infrastructure and site drainage.
 - Departmental officials meet regularly with Haines Junction town council to provide updates and a public information session information is being planned.
-

Context:

- Increasing lot availability and addressing housing pressures in all Yukon communities is of high interest to the public.
-

Background:

- Community Service's Land Development Branch (LDB) works with municipal, First Nation and private sector partners to determine site suitability, plan, design, and construct subdivisions. Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch (LMB) takes the lots to market for sale.

Community Summaries

Carmacks:

- Six (6) urban lots have been forwarded to EMR for release in Spring 2024.

Dawson

- Pending heritage protection decisions, three or four more infill lots are targeted for release later for 2024. An industrial parcel is being prepared for release later this year.

Faro

- Seven (7) serviced infill lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024.
-

Haines Junction

- Two (2) urban lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024. Three (3) lots are currently available over the counter.
- The serviced Willow Acres Expansion Phase 1 & 2 is underway (44 lots) with targeted completion set for summer 2025.
- Project was announced by news release on March 13, including the following quote from the Mayor of Haines Junction:
 - The Village of Haines Junction Council is happy to announce the launch of the newest subdivision expansion within the community. This development is set to introduce a significant number of new serviced lots to the market, facilitating the community's growth in a deliberate and sustainable manner. The project represents the culmination of several years of collaborative effort between the Council and the Yukon Land Development Branch. We are excited to see the project start in the upcoming days.

Mayo

- Five (5) infill lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024. There are currently two (2) lots available over the counter.
- Design of the 7th Ave North urban expansion which could provide a long-term supply of lots, will begin this spring.

Teslin

- Twenty-one (21) Lone Tree and 2 large Airport industrial lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024.

Watson Lake

- One (1) vacant infill lots have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024. There are currently two (2) lots available over the counter.
- Francis Avenue 43 lot extension and lift station construction is targeted for completion in Fall 2024. Under the agreement, 18 of the lots will be transferred to LFN.

Session Briefing Note

EMR TAB # 71 TAB# LD-02

Spring 2024

Rural Land Development

Community Services

Whitehorse Periphery

- Another 20+ lots in the Whitehorse periphery, including up to 15 in the Grizzley Valley subdivision have been forwarded for release in Spring 2024.

Approved by:

February 22, 2024

Deputy Minister, Community Services

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Macaulay Lodge

72
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The land tender for the former Macaulay Lodge site, 2 Klondike Road, closed on April 4, 2024 and the lot is in the process of being sold.
- The site was rezoned to Comprehensive Neighbourhood Commercial in alignment with the new City of Whitehorse Official Community Plan. This zoning includes supportive housing as a secondary use.

Additional response:

- The 2022 demolition of Macaulay Lodge, at 2 Klondike Road in Riverdale, provides opportunities for future land use. These were initially explored through an expression of interest issued in spring 2022.
- While the sale does not require affordable housing, there are various funding sources and City of Whitehorse incentives for developers to support affordable housing.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about 2 Klondike Road, the former Macaulay Lodge lot, because affordable housing continues to generate significant public interest.

Background:

- Macaulay Lodge opened in Riverdale in 1969 and was the only long-term care home in Whitehorse for many years.
- All residents were moved to Whistle Bend Place or another long-term care residence of their choice in January 2019.
- Macaulay Lodge was demolished in September 2022 to repurpose the site.

Session Briefing Note

Macaulay Lodge

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Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

- An Expression of Interest (EOI) was conducted between March and May 2022 to determine private sector interest and capacity in redeveloping the site which yielded two responses.
- The rezoning application of the former Macaulay Lodge site was approved in May 2023. The zoning was amended from Public Service and a small portion of Greenbelt to a site-specific Comprehensive Neighbourhood Commercial zone.
- The January 2023 City of Whitehorse Council public rezoning hearing heard a request for additional seniors' housing; the same message was also shared with other political officials.
- The zoning designation allows for mixed-use residential and commercial development with supportive housing included as an allowable secondary use. It also requires that any commercial development be accompanied by an allowable residential use.
- The legal survey of the lot was completed in December 2023.
- On March 14, 2024, a sale-by-tender for 2 Klondike Road was issued, the tender closed on April 4, 2024.

Approved by:

April 16, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#73
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are developing a new regulation for the construction, operation and decommissioning of resource roads in the Yukon.
- The resource roads regulation will give clarity about how resource roads are accessed and will provide consistent rules for permit-holders under the new management regime.
- We are working with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups and industry as we complete the regulation and progress towards implementation.

Additional response:

- Feedback from the public, stakeholders, Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups has informed the content and implementation of the regulation.
- A What We Heard report on the second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation for the resource road regulation is anticipated to be released by spring 2024.
- The final regulation will include planning and managing how resource roads are accessed. It will also incorporate objectives for building, operating and decommissioning roads.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Access management for resource industries has been a challenge for many years in the Yukon because of a lack of regulatory tools for resource roads.

Session Briefing Note

Resource Roads Regulation

#73
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- A land use permit issued under the Land Use Regulation is the only current regulatory tool for roads developed to access resources. A land use permit regulates road construction but not the use, maintenance or decommissioning of roads.
- Longstanding challenges associated with resource roads in the Yukon include:
 - ensuring resource roads are decommissioned at the end of service life to prevent permanent public access to the hinterland; and
 - managing access for multiple and varied users on permitted roads.
- The proposed resource roads regulation will provide the Government of Yukon with new regulatory tools and clarify permit holder responsibilities related to road construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- The Government of Yukon completed an initial 60-day public engagement and First Nations consultation in July 2018, which included a two-day workshop with First Nations and industry. A second round of public engagement and First Nation consultation occurred from March to May 2023.
- Active discussions continue to take place with interested Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups, Renewable Resources Councils and industry groups.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is consulting with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous groups on the draft regulation and engaging with the public and industry.
- Recent letters from Yukon First Nations noting concerns with the draft regulation have led to further conversations.
- In 2021, amendments were made to the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* that focused on providing authority for the resource roads regulation to be enacted and administered.

Session Briefing Note
Resource Roads
Regulation

#73
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:	
	January 31, 2024
_____ Deputy Minister Department of Energy, Mines and Resources	_____ Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#74
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is aware of cabins, docks and other structures built without authorization in the Yukon's wilderness areas.
- Illegal occupancies negatively impact First Nations rights and titles, alienate other users from using public land, and are often associated with other illegal activities such as cutting trees or creating unauthorized roads and trails.
- Unauthorized occupancies impact the Yukon's wilderness and create liabilities for Yukon citizens and governments.
- We continue to address unauthorized structures on public land.

Additional response:

- Regulation of unauthorized occupancy is important for Yukoners' safety, environmental health, and to preserve the respectful use of the land.
- We are modernizing our land legislation and creating a strong framework to give us the tools needed to manage land use in Yukon wilderness areas.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest due to media attention on the unauthorized cabins at Ensley Creek and in Carcross/Tagish Traditional Territory.

Session Briefing Note

Managing Unauthorized Occupancies

#74
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources' Land Management Branch is aware of nearly 500 documented unauthorized occupancies across the Yukon that have infrastructure including cabins, fuel storage and other structures. There are likely additional, undocumented sites.
- Addressing unauthorized occupancies is prioritized based on risk and available resources.
- High-profile occupancies, such as those at Ensley Creek, may encourage additional ones if not actioned promptly.
- Education and seeking voluntary compliance are the first approaches when dealing with unauthorized occupancies.
- Enforcement is a necessary response when there is no voluntary compliance. Enforcement measures protect public land, maintain the public's ability to access land, and address risks to human safety and environmental damage.
- The Government of Yukon works proactively with First Nations and municipalities regarding structures built on public land.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 30, 2024

Date approved

Recommended response:

- The Northern Community Land Trust Society (Society) is proposing to develop a 32-unit multi-unit building of affordable homeownership using a model that supports long-term, deep affordability.
- Our government supports this project and will be providing the Society with access to land in the Whistle Bend subdivision.
- We are taking steps to ensure this unique model can stand the test of time, and that legal mechanisms exist to preserve the long-term affordability of these homes.

Additional response:

- We know from the recent Office of the Auditor General's report that addressing Yukon's housing needs will require us to adopt innovative approaches that leverage the strength of partnerships.
- Our support for this project demonstrates our commitment to backing innovative, made-in-Yukon solutions to meet our housing needs.

Context:

- Mandate Commitment: Supporting the community land trust to advance its project in Whitehorse.
-

Background:

- The Northern Community Land Trust Society is a Whitehorse based non-profit organization that aims to build affordable housing in the territory.
- Using a community land trust model protects the affordability of the home by allowing the owner to resell at prices that can increase over time but only at the rate of inflation. In the case of the NCLT, the society will operate as a

Session Briefing Note

EMR TAB # 75 TAB #33
Spring 2024

Northern Community Land Trust (NCLT)

Yukon Housing Corporation

condominium corporation whose legally binding bylaws will be bolstered by planned changes to the *Land Titles Act* to support ongoing affordability.

- Model success relies on an original grant of land and a non-profit approach to construction.
- The Society is providing an opportunity for households earning less than 80 per cent of the Yukon median income to achieve home ownership and, over time, build equity.
- NCLT intends to use restrictive covenants on title, limiting the increase in resale value of the homes to the rate of inflation, to maintain long term affordability.
- A March 2022 legal review of the proposed Community Land Trust Model found it would not be legally viable under the *Yukon Condominium Act*, which states that a leasehold condominium can only be created on parcels of land owned by a public authority. NCLT's plan has since been amended to reflect this concern by proposing the use of Restrictive Covenants to control the resale value of the home.
- The Government of Yukon is working on planned amendments to the *Land Titles Act*, which are planned to be tabled in the fall 2024 sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.
 - The Department of Justice is leading this work which, when complete, will enable the enforcement of statutory restrictive covenants.
- A parcel of land is being held in Whistle Bend until 2025 and will be transferred for a nominal fee of \$1 once NCLTS has met the conditions in the letter of intent issued in December 2022.
 - The appraised market value of the land is \$1.2 million.

Approved by:

President, Yukon Housing Corporation

February 1, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Interest Rates for Whistle Bend Lots

76
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are aware that Phase 6B lots in the Whistle Bend subdivision, Whitehorse, were sold prior to the issuance of a Construction Completion Certificate.
- Releasing the lots prior to completion of development work provided purchasers with lead-time to plan their build and secure financing.
- Some Phase 6B clients who chose not to pay for their lots in full have accrued interest under their Agreements for Sale.
- As we committed last fall, we are providing Phase 6B lot purchasers with a remission on the interest accrued before the Construction Completion Certificate was issued.

Additional response:

- On September 21, 2023, when subdivision construction was complete, the Construction Completion Certificate was issued for 40 lots in Phase 6B, allowing builders to access their lots and start construction.
- On October 6, 2023, the Construction Completion Certificate was released for the remaining lots in Phase 6B.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Some clients who purchased lots in Whistle Bend Phase 6B were accruing interest as per their Agreements for Sale, but were unable to access their lots because the lots were not ready.

Session Briefing Note

Interest Rates for Whistle Bend Lots

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Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Phase 6B Lots

- In April 2023, 100 lots in Phase 6B were released through a lottery process.
- The lottery information outlined building timelines (three years), interest rates, and described the outstanding development work to be completed, noting that final construction work would be ongoing in Phases 6B and 8 during spring and early summer 2023.
- Phase 6B purchasers who did not pay for their lots in full began to accrue interest as per their Agreements for Sale in April/May 2023. The first interest payment for Phase 6B clients is due April/May 2024.

Agreements for Sale

- An Agreement for Sale is a contract between the client to purchase the land and the Government of Yukon to sell the land. These identify the terms and conditions of sale and enable the client to purchase a lot in installments over a set period (typically five years).
- The land title remains with the Government of Yukon until all the terms and conditions of the Agreement for Sale are met. Individuals can pay out the purchase price on their Agreement for Sale at any time to avoid paying interest to the Government of Yukon.
- Interest rates for public land purchases in the Yukon are set in legislation. The rate of interest charged on the outstanding balance owed is established in the *Lands Act* and the *Lands Regulation* and is tied to the Bank of Canada Bank Rate.
- The interest rate is set at “the Bank Rate plus 2.5 per cent,” with a minimum interest rate set at 5 per cent.
- Agreements for Sale have set payments; the interest rate is calculated when the Agreement is signed.

Session Briefing Note
Interest Rates for Whistle
Bend Lots

76
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

April 8, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note
Beaver River Land Use Plan
and First Nation of Nacho
Nyäk Dun Regional
Planning

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun to advance land use planning in their traditional territory, including the Beaver River watershed.
- Regional planning with the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun is in the pre-planning stage.
- The Government of Yukon and First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun are actively discussing how the Beaver River planning process may interact with the Chapter 11 regional land use planning process.

Additional response:

- The Beaver River planning process supports the 2018 agreement between the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun regarding proposed construction of a tote road.
- The outcomes of the recent appeal decision regarding the proposed exploration project in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun highlight the important role of land use planning.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions regarding the Beaver River Land Use Plan's status and when it will be complete.

Background:

- The Government of Yukon and First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun met recently to discuss the Beaver River planning process and linkages to the Chapter 11 regional planning process. Discussions are ongoing.

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Session Briefing Note

Beaver River Land Use Plan and First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun Regional Planning

- The Beaver River land use planning process is not an Umbrella Final Agreement Chapter 11 sub-regional planning process. Rather, it comes out of the 2018 Intergovernmental Agreement between the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon, which supports the proposed ATAC tote Road.
- The Agreement states that a land use plan must be finalized before any road construction occurs.
- ATAC Resources Ltd. has sold many of its mineral holdings in the Yukon to Hecla Mining, including its Rackla Gold and Connaught projects.
- On March 15, 2021, the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun petitioned the Yukon Supreme Court to set aside the Government of Yukon's issuance of a Decision Document for the Metallic Minerals proposed exploration project in the Beaver River Watershed in part due to the ongoing Beaver River Land Use Planning process.
- On January 31, 2023, the court referred the matter back to the Government of Yukon for consideration. The Government of Yukon [had](#) appealed to the Supreme Court decision in the Metallic Minerals case. [Government of Yukon's appeal was dismissed in large part. The decision on this case was released on April 9, 2024. \(See EMR BN #90\)](#)
- [Website updates are agreed to by the parties. Government of Yukon is working with First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun staff to update the website.](#)
- The March 2023 declaration of a State of Emergency by the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun and the evacuation of the Village of Mayo during due to 2023 wildfires may also affect the timing of the Beaver River planning process.

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EMR #80 / ENV #90**Spring 2024**Energy, Mines and
Resources
and Environment**Session Briefing Note
Beaver River Land Use Plan
and First Nation of Nacho
Nyäk Dun Regional
Planning**

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

_____April 18, 2024_____

Date approved

Approved by:

Deputy Minister of Environment

April 23, 2024

Date approved

TOC

Session Briefing Note

Local Area Planning

#81
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- We are working with First Nations governments and Yukon communities to create local area plans and zoning regulations that reflect local contexts, guide development and help to resolve competing land uses.
- We are currently working with First Nations governments on local area plans for the Alaska Highway West, Łu Zil Män (Sloo-Zill-Mun, or Fish Lake) and Marsh Lake areas.
- We are also working to create and update zoning regulations, such as engaging with Golden Horn residents on potential zoning changes for more housing development and working with the Ibex Valley Local Advisory Council to explore potential zoning updates.

Additional response:

- In fall 2023, we worked in partnership with Teslin Tlingit Council to create zoning for the Lone Tree residential development near Teslin to provide a total of 40 new residential lots.
- It is important to understand and reflect local contexts in the development of local area plans. We value the voices and ideas of each community.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members regularly seek updates on the status of community planning processes.

Session Briefing Note

Local Area Planning

#81
Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

- Local area plans are policy documents developed with First Nations and communities. Steering committees typically lead local area plan development.
- The policies and land use designations in a local area plan are implemented through area development (or zoning) regulations.
- The Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation are drafting the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan. A Steering Committee composed of local residents and Kwanlin Dün citizens is guiding the planning process. Before the plan is approved by both governments, the public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan, which will be released in [summer](#) 2024.
- In February 2024, the Government of Yukon and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations co-hosted public engagement events in Haines Junction, Champagne and Takhini areas to gather input on the Alaska Highway West Background Report. The report is now being finalized.
- Public input is currently being received for a potential zoning change in the Golden Horn area that could allow smaller lot sizes and more flexibility to build additional housing.
- For the Lone Tree development project near Teslin, the Government of Yukon established zoning for 23 lots to be released for private tenure. An additional 17 lots will be leased by Teslin Tlingit Council.
- The Mount Lorne Local Area Plan does not advance the McGowan rural residential land development project, in accordance with residents' interests. When amendments to the plan were proposed in 2010 and 2015, local residents and the public raised significant concerns around the projects' potential impact on caribou habitat, wildfire risk, cost, sustainability, and local watersheds.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 26, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Shallow Bay Zoning Amendments

#82
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The process to create new zoning in the Shallow Bay area is on hold due to flooding impacts on properties in the Shallow Bay area and concerns brought forward by the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.
- Flood risk mapping for this area is expected to be completed in [spring 2024](#). The mapping will be used to update the recommended zoning. It is important that zoning regulations address development concerns in high flood risk areas.
- Once flood risk mapping is complete, the Government of Yukon will consider subdivision applications from property owners.

Additional response:

- The Shallow Bay What We Heard report summarizes feedback from the Shallow Bay public engagement and is available online.
- The Department of Environment released draft flood risk mapping for public feedback in January 2024 [and is now working on final mapping](#).
- Once flood risk mapping is available, we will work with the zoning committee and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council officials to resolve land use issues raised by community members.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Community members may have questions about the Shallow Bay zoning process.

Background:

- In May 2018, the Government of Yukon and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council established the Shallow Bay Zoning Committee to assist with the development of draft zoning

Session Briefing Note
Shallow Bay Zoning
Amendments

#82
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

regulations for the area. The committee includes representation from property owners and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

- The committee reached a consensus on the proposed new zoning in December 2020. Input on the zoning was received from the public and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council citizens. A What We Heard report is available on Yukon.ca.

Approved by:	
<div></div>	April 15, 2024
Deputy Minister	Date approved
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources	

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan continues, including managing permanent and temporary staking prohibitions within conservation areas identified in the plan.
- Mineral projects proposed on existing claims only proceed if they meet the requirements of the Plan and Yukon's assessment and regulatory regimes.
- We continue to meet regularly with our First Nations partners from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Gwich'in Tribal Council to implement the plan.
- More than 6500 out of almost 9000 mineral claims in the Peel have either lapsed or been relinquished in exchange for non-monetary compensation.

Additional response:

- We are working with our First Nations partners to protect conservation areas in the plan, including working towards legally designating these areas.
- We worked with our First Nations partners to include the Peel region's special management areas as interim protected areas under the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, which is a federal conservation area accounting initiative.
- We are working collaboratively with our First Nations partners through the Peel Plan Implementation Committee to clarify the Peel Plan

Session Briefing Note

Peel Implementation

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

recommendations of adequate baseline data required for evaluating proposed projects.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There has been some recent media coverage about the implementation challenges of approved regional plans.

Background:

- Three types of conservation areas in the Peel Watershed Region have been withdrawn from staking under the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*. Special Management Areas have been withdrawn indefinitely and represent 55 per cent of the region. Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Areas-Boreal Caribou are withdrawn until January 1, 2030, representing 28 per cent of the region.
- We provide opportunities for relinquishment of mineral claims for eligible claim holders in the designated Peel conservation areas in exchange for non-financial incentives, such as a period of relief from assessment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory. (See BN #97)
- In 2021, Silver 47 Exploration Corp submitted a proposal for a Class 3 quartz exploration program on their Michelle Creek property, overlapping several Landscape Management Units within the Peel Watershed region. (See BN #6)
- Other implementation work includes working with the Government of Canada on a potential National Park in the area. (See ENV BN# 91, Peel Land Use Plan Implementation)

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 31, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation** Environment

Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan:

- We are working with our First Nation partners, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to continue to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- Our governments have been working together to designate the Peel Plan's Special Management Areas as protected areas under legislation. As recently announced, this includes a feasibility assessment for a national park for the areas including Turner Lake Wetlands, Caribou River, and the Peel River corridor.
- We will also work in partnership with Yukon First Nations to co-develop the management direction for these protected areas, which will include an opportunity for public input.
- Other implementation activities include the establishment of two hydrometric stations on the Snake and Wind Rivers. These stations monitor water levels and flow, and the data can be accessed by the public in real time.
- Accessible water data increases safety of river users and is valuable for understanding environmental change in the area.
- We have also produced publicly available mapping products, which used satellite imagery to map wetlands and areas of existing disturbance. These products can be used to inform future land management planning and decision-making.
- Two areas within the Peel Watershed have been nominated by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute to be National Historic Sites.

Session Briefing Note**Spring 2024****Peel Land Use Planning Implementation Environment**

These are areas of great cultural importance to the Tetlit Gwich'in. The nominations are supported by all five parties to the Peel Plan.

- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will determine whether to recommend these sites as designated sites to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- We look forward to continuing collaborative work with First Nations partners to implement the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

National Park Feasibility Assessment in the Peel Watershed

- Recently, the Government of Yukon shared the news that, in partnership with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Parks Canada, we are working on a feasibility assessment for a new national park in the Peel Watershed.
- While these areas of the Peel are already identified for permanent protection through the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, embarking on a national park feasibility assessment will provide the opportunity to:
 1. consider a national park as the permanent protected area designation;
 2. determine the protected area boundaries;
 3. discuss longer term management of this area; and
 4. consider the potential social, environmental, and economic benefits of establishing a national park in the area.
- If established, a new national park would provide long-term protection for this area, which includes 3,000 square kilometres of rich and diverse landscapes.

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Peel Land Use Planning Implementation Environment

- A feasibility assessment for a national park in this area is a key step toward implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan and supports the conservation and protection goals of the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement.

Harvest Opportunities in the Special Management Areas:

- The feasibility assessment will consider any social, environmental, and economic benefits and impacts; this includes implications of establishing a national park for this area could have on commercial interests or the impact on any harvest activities in the area.
- The area does not overlap with any outfitting concession and is very remote. As of now, there are very few hunting activities happening in the area. Subsistence harvest rights will be unchanged.
- Between 1995 and 2023, there were three animals harvested in the area identified in the feasibility study assessment, with the last animal harvested being a caribou in 2022.
- As the Game Management Subzones where these three animals were harvested have minimal overlap with the area of the feasibility assessment, in addition to Tetlin Gwich'in lands where permission to hunt is required, it is probable that there were no animals harvested within the potential national park area.
- Through this feasibility assessment, the Government of Yukon will be able, alongside all partners, to determine the impacts and benefits of establishing a national park in this area.
- More broadly, other future designations of Special Management Areas in the Peel Watershed are under review by the Parties and any

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Peel Land Use Planning Implementation Environment

designation will respect the objectives in the plan. This includes renewable land uses of the wilderness eco-tourism, big game outfitting and trapping land use sectors.

- These activities are all compatible with the objectives of these Land Management Units in the plan and future protection area designations will facilitate the continuation and economic benefits of such activities in a manner consistent with the ecological values of the area.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The public continues to show interest in the implementation of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

Background:

- The Peel Plan Implementation Committee consists of representatives from all five governments who are signatories to the Peel Plan and are responsible for overseeing the Plan's implementation.
- The two areas nominated to be National Historic Sites are Tshuu tr'adaojìch'uu and Teetl'it njik. They are culturally significant locations along the Peel River.

Approved by:

April 29, 2024

Deputy Minister of Environment

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Coffee Gold Mine

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In March 2022, the governments of Yukon and Canada accepted the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's recommendation that the Coffee Gold project proceed.
- The Government of Yukon received a quartz mining licence application from Coffee Gold site owner, Newmont, on November 27, 2023.
- Newmont must also obtain a water licence from the Yukon Water Board and receive required federal approvals. Newmont's water licence application has also been filed.

Additional response:

- We recognize that if the Coffee Gold mine advances, it will provide many jobs and opportunities for Yukoners over its projected operation and closure phases.
- We continue to actively consult with affected First Nations on the project and remain committed to ensuring the mine is developed and operated in a sustainable manner, based on strong environmental and social principles and performance.
- We are aware that Newmont intends to sell the Coffee Gold project. The commitments and assurances made by Newmont during the assessment process and specific agreements with affected First Nations will be conditions of any future sale.

Session Briefing Note

Coffee Gold Mine

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Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Coffee Gold generates broad interest as it progresses closer to mine development and eventual operations.
-

Background:

- The Coffee Gold Mine is located approximately 130 kilometres south of Dawson City.
- The project is an open pit and heap leach gold mine with a 30-month construction period followed by a 10-year operation phase and an 11-year closure phase.
- The access road to the project is proposed to be a 214-kilometre all-season road with barge crossings at the Stewart and Yukon rivers. The access route is a combination of existing roads, roads that require improvements, and new construction.
- The Government of Yukon, Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada issued a joint Decision Document on March 3, 2022. This Decision Document accepted all terms and conditions in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board's Final Screening Report.
- The Decision Document included several monitoring requirements and socio-economic terms and conditions that fall outside of the typical regulatory authorizations. The Government of Yukon is developing an approach to address all the recommendations.
- The Government of Yukon is consulting with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, and White River First Nation and engaging with Newmont on the regulatory applications for the Quartz Mining Licence and authorizations for the proposed access road.
- Newmont announced its plan to divest many of its properties following the acquisition of Newcrest, one of these properties is the Coffee Gold project. Newmont has indicated that the property will only be sold to companies that can demonstrate they have the capability to undertake the project and will uphold the values of Newmont.
- Newmont plans to continue with regulatory applications in 2024 with the expectation that a sale will occur within the calendar year.

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Coffee Gold Mine

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- Newmont has agreements with all affected First Nations on the project and is actively engaging with First Nations on regulatory application materials. Any future company will be required to take on and uphold these agreements in the event of a sale.
- The company continues to explore the Coffee Gold property to expand its resources.

Approved by:

March 5, 2024

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**ECO #8 / EMR #87 / ENV #32****Spring 2024****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

Recommended response:

- Our government is committed to responsible mineral resource development and collaborative resource stewardship alongside First Nations partners.
- As directed in the January 2, 2024 Supreme Court of Yukon's decision, the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation had a consultation meeting on February 7 and 8, 2024 in Ross River.
- The Government of Yukon and Canada issued a Decision Document on March 8, 2024, recommending the project proceed to the regulatory phase.
- In response to Kaska concerns raised at the consultation meeting, existing terms and conditions were modified and new terms and conditions included.
- The government of Yukon is committed to continued consultation with the Kaska as it considers applications for authorizations and licences required by the proponent to construct and bring the mine into production.
- More broadly, we will also continue to engage meaningfully with the Kaska throughout the project's lifetime, in line with our commitment to reconciliation and to build strong relationships with First Nations governments.

Additional response:

- We are committed to meaningful engagement and reconciliation with the Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation.

Session Briefing Note**ECO #8 / EMR #87 / ENV #32****Spring 2024****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

Context — this may be an issue because:

- On January 2, 2024, the Supreme Court of Yukon issued its Reasons for Decision on the judicial review of the decision to approve the Kudz Ze Kayah project.
- The Supreme Court of Yukon concluded that that the Crown failed in its duty to consult with respect to the June 14, 2022, submission.
- Ross River Dena Council have filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of Yukon decision, [which is scheduled to be heard in November 2024](#).
- During the project assessment and subsequent consultation, Ross River Dena Council and Liard First Nation identified impacts of the project to their Aboriginal rights and title.
- The Kaska Nation requested the project be rejected or be referred to a panel during the assessment.

Background:

- On June 15, 2022, a joint decision document was issued by the governments of Canada and Yukon to vary the Executive Committee's recommendations that the project be allowed to proceed, subject to terms and conditions specified in the Final Screening Report.
- On July 20, 2022, the Ross River Dena Council, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kaska Nation, filed a petition for judicial review of the decision.
- In August 2022, BMC Minerals submitted applications to the Yukon government for a quartz mining licence, a Type-A water licence and land leases.
- A Supreme Court of Yukon hearing was held in April 2023.
- The Court's Decision was given on January 2, 2024.
- The Yukon government's regulatory review of these applications [was](#) paused in response to the Court's Decision, which sets aside the Decision Document for the project until consultation obligations have been fulfilled [and a new Decision Document issued](#).

Session Briefing Note**ECO #8 / EMR #87 / ENV #32****Spring 2024****Kudz Ze Kayah Mine
Project (BMC Minerals)**

ECO – EMR - ENV

- On March 8, 2024, Decision Bodies issued a Decision Document recommending the project proceed to the regulatory phase.
- (See ECO TAB 31 Ross River Dena Council – Issues and Initiatives).

Approved by:

_____	March 13,2024
Deputy Minister of the Executive Council Office	Date approved
_____	March 13, 2024
Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources	Date approved
_____	March 13, 2024
Deputy Minister of Environment	Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Critical Minerals

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Our 2021 Yukon Critical Minerals Inventory shows that the Yukon has known deposits of nine and documented occurrences of 16 of the 31 critical minerals identified by Canada.
- In 2022, the Yukon saw exploration activity for the following critical minerals: copper, zinc, tungsten, nickel, cobalt, platinum group metals, and rare earth elements.
- We are supporting exploration and development of the Yukon's critical minerals by advancing our work to establish an electrical grid intertie with British Columbia, providing continued tide water access in Skagway, and making improvements to our road infrastructure through the Yukon Resource Gateway Project. (See BN#7 and 104)

Additional response:

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, we updated the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration goal.
- We are working with Natural Resources Canada on the implementation of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and considering other made-in-Yukon solutions to advance critical minerals opportunities in the territory.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Geopolitical tensions have increased the focus on securing domestic supply chains for critical minerals. Questions may be raised on whether the development of critical minerals is prioritized in the Yukon.

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Critical Minerals

Spring 2024

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Background:

- Critical minerals are important for economic prosperity and supplies are vulnerable to disruption due to geopolitical events.
- In 2021, Canada released a list of 31 critical minerals, of which the Yukon has deposits for nine, including copper (electrical transmission), zinc (anode in material batteries), tungsten (strengthening metals), nickel (metal coatings), cobalt (batteries), platinum group metals (catalytic agents), molybdenum (alloy steel), antimony (batteries) and tin (protective metal coatings).
- The Mines Intergovernmental Working Group, chaired by NRCan, held the first consultation meeting with provinces and territories on January 9, 2024, to update the criteria that defines critical minerals in Canada. The current criteria are:
 1. Essential to Canada's economic or national security.
 2. Required for transition to a sustainable low-carbon and digital economy.
 3. A sustainable and strategic source of critical minerals for allies.
 4. Mineral supply is threatened.
 5. The mineral has a reasonable likelihood of being produced in Canada.
- It is possible that silver could be added to Canada's critical minerals list based on the current criteria.
- The Yukon's endowment of critical minerals represents both economic opportunities and an opportunity to contribute to the renewable energy/green economy in Canada.
- Canada's Budget 2022 proposed up to \$3.8 billion over eight years, starting in 2022-23, to implement Canada's first Critical Minerals Strategy. This includes:
 1. Up to \$1.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2023-24, for infrastructure investments that would support the development of the critical minerals supply chains, with a focus on priority deposits;
 2. \$79.2 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, for Natural Resources Canada to provide public access to integrated data sets to inform critical mineral exploration and development; and

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3. The introduction of a new 30 per cent Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for specified mineral exploration expenses incurred in Canada and renounced to flow-through share investors. This targets nickel, lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper, rare earths elements, vanadium, tellurium, gallium, scandium, titanium, magnesium, zinc, platinum group metals, or uranium.
- Yukon Geological Survey has applied to Natural Resources Canada's Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Program for \$200,000 over three years (2024-2027) to support the digitization of critical mineral exploration data from assessment files. This will facilitate access to the data and support the assessment of mineral potential for land use planning.

Approved by:

February 1, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Hecla - Keno Hill

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Keno Hill Silver Project is Hecla Mining Corporation's newest operation. Hecla put the Bermingham Mine into production in 2023, which produced 1.5 million ounces of silver over a nearly six-month production period. Outputs are expected to increase in 2024.
- Recent inspections of the Keno Hill Silver Project mining operations identified licence non-compliances related to mine water discharges and improper handling and storage of hazardous chemicals on site.
- Natural Resource Officers regularly visit mine sites. When non-compliances are identified, we have a range of enforcement responses, from issuing warnings to pursuing formal charges through the courts.

Additional response:

- Hecla Mining acquired the Keno Hill Silver Project from Alexco Resource Corp in late 2022.
- The Government of Yukon holds \$11.3 million in financial security for the mining operations in the Keno Hill Silver District.
- Charges have been laid for the non-compliances in 2022 and 2023.
- Inspection reports are publicly available on Waterline, the Yukon Water Board's public registry.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions may be raised about the status of site operations, plans for the project and local concerns surrounding impacts to the environment.

Session Briefing Note Hecla - Keno Hill

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Background:

- Alexco began mine production at Keno Hill in 2010. The site went into temporary closure from 2013 to 2019 due to low metal prices.
- The Keno Hill Silver District hosts numerous historical mining developments that are federal liabilities.
- The Elsa Reclamation and Development Company, a Hecla subsidiary, is under contract with the Government of Canada to carry out the site-wide closure and reclamation plan for these historical liabilities.
- The Government of Yukon and Yukon Water Board are currently reviewing the 2023 Reclamation and Closure Plan including financial security requirements.

Compliance and Enforcement Status

- Natural Resource Officers regularly inspect mining and reclamation sites and activities. (See BN#41)
- On December 13, 2023, charges were sworn against Hecla for violations which occurred between April 2022 and July 2023. The first court appearance for these charges occurred on February 1, 2024 in Mayo.
- The most recent site inspection, on February 13, 2024, involved follow-up in relation to previously identified discharge issues at the Keno Hill site. These issues are currently under investigation.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

March 7, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Metallic Minerals

Spring 2024

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Resources

Recommended response:

- We are carefully reviewing the decision issued by the Yukon Court of Appeal on April 9. We'll have more to say once we have analyzed the decision.
- Such decisions are important in guiding how we do our work.
- Implementation of the Final Agreements and building strong relationships with our First Nation partners continue to be priorities of the Yukon government.

Additional response:

- The Government of Yukon is committed to implementing the Final and Self-government Agreements and to conducting meaningful consultation with Indigenous governments and groups.
- We continue to consult with First Nations on every project application that may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights and apply mitigations both in the decision documents and in any future mining land use approvals.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in the Metallic Minerals court case and implications for First Nations and project proponents.

Background:

- In 2020, Metallic Minerals applied for a Class 3 exploration permit for the LOTR project, in the Beaver River area north of Keno City. The project proposal received

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Metallic Minerals

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a “proceed with terms and conditions” recommendation from the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

- The Government of Yukon consulted the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun on the project's potential impacts. The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun expressed the project should not proceed until the Beaver River Land Use Plan is complete.
- In response to the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun’s concerns, the Government of Yukon added several terms and conditions and issued a decision document in February 2021 to allow the project to proceed.
- On March 15, 2022, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun filed a petition against the Government of Yukon in the Yukon Supreme Court in response to the Government of Yukon issuing the decision document for the project.
- Due to the petition, the Yukon government agreed to not continue the regulatory (permitting) process for this application until the case was concluded.
- The petition references a 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun that contains a commitment to complete a sub-regional land use plan for the Beaver River watershed. (EMR BN #80)
- On January 31, 2023, the Supreme Court of Yukon ruled consultation with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun to be inadequate and overturned the Government of Yukon’s decision document for the Metallic Minerals Project.
- The Government of Yukon filed an appeal with the Yukon Court of Appeal on March 1, 2023 as the Supreme Court of Yukon ruling [raised](#) significant legal issues beyond this one specific exploration project.
- The LOTR project consists of 52 claims located approximately 64 kilometres from Keno City and 103 kilometres from Mayo within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
- [The Court of Appeal issued its decision April 9, 2024. The appeal was dismissed in large part.](#)

Session Briefing Note

Metallic Minerals

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 15, 2024

Date approved

**Session Briefing Note
Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

Recommended response:

- I am pleased to share that we are making progress on several initiatives to implement the wetland stewardship policy.
- The implementation working group has identified several priority actions, including wetland classification, guidance for wetland identification, and comprehensive, territory-wide wetland mapping.
- The Government of Yukon is reviewing the potential for project impacts on wetlands during the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act assessment stage. We are also requesting more detailed wetland impact mitigation and reclamation planning at the licensing and post-licensing stages.
- In December 2023, we established standard operational guidelines for mineral activities in wetlands to be included in class 1 mineral exploration authorizations.
- We intend to engage with First Nations and interested parties on the guidance for the nomination, evaluation, and protection of Wetlands of Special Importance in 2024. When this work is completed, we will work towards an initial intake of nominations for Wetlands of Special Importance.

Additional response:

- To support wetland policy implementation, we recently released broad-scale wetland mapping within the Peel, Beaver River, Mayo and McQuesten watersheds.

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Implementation**Environment and
Energy, Mines and Resources

- During the summer of 2023, we collected aerial imagery to support local-scale wetland mapping and vegetation mapping in the Klondike goldfields region. We anticipate undertaking wetland mapping in key drainages beginning in 2024.
- With support from Government of Yukon, Ducks Unlimited Canada will be releasing a user-friendly, common sense field guide to identifying wetlands for use by a variety of stakeholders including industry.
- We will be launching new wetland information pages on Yukon.ca to share guidance documents and resources as they become available.
- A more detailed summary of wetland actions will be provided in the 2024 State of the Environment report from the Department of Environment.

Third response:

- We acknowledge the importance of being responsive to new information as we continue to build our knowledge and improve our understanding of the Yukon's wetlands, including recognizing and respecting traditional, local, and scientific knowledge.
- We are preparing to launch a three-year wetland research project this summer with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The research will look at the effects of placer mining and reclamation activities on peatland greenhouse gas emissions and removals (fluxes) in the Yukon.
- We will continue to engage with other governments, departments, agencies, regulatory bodies, and external partners to discuss specific aspects of wetland stewardship policy implementation.

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Yukon Wetland Policy
Implementation

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- We remain committed to addressing wetland stewardship and protection within land use planning discussions and project reviews.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Implementation of the Wetlands Policy and the ongoing management of wetlands is of significant interest to Yukoners.

Background:

- A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon’s Wetlands was released on January 10, 2023. The goal of the policy is to ensure the benefits of Yukon’s wetlands are sustained.
- The Government of Yukon committed \$1.68 million over two fiscal years (2023-24 to 2024-25) for the departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources to begin jointly implementing the wetland stewardship policy.
- In January 2023, the Government of Yukon formed an internal working group to advance and coordinate the implementation of the wetland stewardship policy.
- The working group is composed of members of Environment, Energy Mines and Resources, Executive Council Office, and Highways and Public Works.
- The group meets monthly to advance various aspects of policy implementation and ensure a whole-of-government approach to policy implementation.
- See **Appendix A** for updates on implementation status.

Deputy Minister
Department of Environment

March 1, 2024

Date approved

Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resource

March 5, 2024

Date approved

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Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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Appendix A: Actions within the wetland stewardship policy			
Policy Actions (bold = near-term priorities)	Timeline * priority adjusted	Lead	Status update Not Started Initiated Underway Near_Complete
1. Develop guidance for the evaluation of wetland benefits in the Yukon	Long-term	ENV	We have completed some initial work comparing processes in other jurisdictions.
2. Update and finalize a Yukon wetland classification system	Near-term	ENV	We have completed a draft wetland classification document. We will be circulating this draft for review by our management partners and interested stakeholders in 2024.
3. Develop an accessible and easy to use guide to identifying Yukon's wetlands for proponents and the public	Mid-term	External	We have been working with Ducks Unlimited Canada to support their efforts to develop an accessible field guide—ensuring it will align with our classification system (action 2). Ducks Unlimited Canada plans to release this field guide in March 2024.
4. Develop wetland mapping standards for regional, local, and project specific mapping applications	Near-term	ENV	We are continuing to develop a draft wetland mapping standards document. Following internal government review, we will be circulating the draft to our management partners, as well as interested stakeholders, for review.
5. Create a broad scale territory-wide wetland inventory	Near-term	ENV	In 2023/24 (Year 1 of this work), we have completed work on a tool for evaluating map accuracy, evaluation of methodologies for predictive mapping and compilation of existing wetland field information. We are also exploring options to collaborate with Environment and Climate Change Canada to advance territory-wide wetland mapping. We should have a

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Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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			working draft wetland map completed by spring 2024 but it will require further refinement before this map is suitable for wider use.
6. Support local scale wetland mapping, where needed	Near-term*	ENV	We have partnered with EMR's Forest Management Branch, to collect stereo (3D) aerial imagery for the Yukon Plateau region. We anticipate completing local scale wetland mapping in priority areas, within the Klondike Plateau, in 2024/25.
7. Promote northern wetland research	Near-term*	EMR/ENV	Environment is seeking opportunities to support ongoing work on this with other parties. A three-year research project is planned to begin this summer, led by the Wildlife Conservation Society and with funding support from Environment and Climate Change Canada.
8. Promote public awareness of wetlands	Long-term	ENV	
9. Develop guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy	Near-term	EMR/ENV	Addressed in Main message bullets. EMR is leading the development of guidance for the application and use of the mitigation hierarchy. ENV is continuing to work with regulatory agencies, particularly related to mining activity, to address wetland impacts during project assessment and regulatory approvals.
10. Update or develop proponent guidance to be used when submitting wetland impact mitigation information	Near-term	EMR	Plans are in place to develop proponent guidance on how to communicate impact mitigation plans.
11. Update or develop Standard Operating Procedures / Preferred Management Practices for	Long-term	EMR	EMR has developed standard terms and conditions for Class 1 mining activities. These are now being applied at the regulatory stage.

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Yukon Wetland Policy Implementation

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different activities impacting wetlands			EMR will review the effectiveness of these standard terms and revise as necessary.
12. Update or develop general wetland reclamation guidelines, and, where required, sector specific guidelines	Near-term*	EMR	EMR continues to apply the Ruby Creek reclamation plan guidelines for placer activities in the Indian River area. During the initial policy implementation phase, reclamation plans are not currently required outside of this area.
13. Develop guidance for offsetting wetland impacts	Long-term	ENV/EMR	Long-term objective that will be explored after near-term and midterm priorities have been advanced.
14. Develop specific and measurable guidance for the interpretation and application of Wetland of Special Importance nomination criteria	Near-term	ENV	See recommended response. We have completed a draft implementation document. YG departments are reviewing this document internally. Following this review, we will be circulating the draft for comment by our wetland management partners.
15. Establish a process for legal designation of Wetlands of Special Importance (e.g., through existing legislation such as application of Wilderness Management Areas under the Environment Act).	Mid-term*	ENV	Due to legislative agenda, developing regulations to support legal designation has been postponed. It will be advanced at a later date. In the interim, there are a number of existing tools (e.g., withdrawal of mineral staking) that can be used to protect Wetlands of Special Importance.
16. Create a publicly accessible catalogue of Wetlands of Special Importance.	Mid-term	ENV	In advance of the first call for Wetlands of Special Importance (WSI), we are developing the tools and systems to support a public catalogue. This will be available once we complete our first WSI intake.

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Recommended response:

- We recognize industry's concerns about the timelines for regulatory approvals and we remain committed to making improvements to our processes where possible.
- The Mineral Resources Branch engages in over 600 distinct consultations annually and the government's duty to consult with First Nations sometimes creates extended regulatory approval timelines. However, if this duty is not met, a legal challenge could result in further delays and uncertainty for industry.
- The mining and exploration industry in the Yukon remains robust. More claims were staked in 2023 than in 2022, and the number of notifications, Decision Documents and permits issued remains at a steady, high volume.

Additional response:

- We continue to strive to improve the efficiency of our regulatory processes. We are engaging with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board to improve our systems and continue to develop new minerals legislation with Yukon First Nations.
- In meeting our duty to consult with affected First Nations, the consultation process for mineral projects sometimes takes longer than the statutory timelines. It is important to ensure that through our work on mineral projects, we fully consider impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty

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Project Approval Timelines

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Rights, and that we remain fully committed to our relationships with Yukon First Nations.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Industry may have questions on timelines for the issuance of permits.

Background:

- The Mineral Resources Branch is the Decision Body for most mining and exploration projects assessed under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* and is the regulator for exploration programs and major mines.
- Mineral Resources Branch administers and manages mineral tenure and provides direct support to claim holders and operators.
- The Yukon Water Board has delegated authority to act as the Chief of Placer Land Use and the regulator for Class 4 placer projects. It is responsible for issuing Class 4 placer permits.
- On occasion, as the Mineral Resources Branch engaged in consultation, a few projects have taken months to conclude. There are, at times, issues that warrant significant discussion around potential impacts on rights and therefore, longer periods of consultation are required before they are resolved.
- The following table includes the number of notifications, Decision Documents, and approvals that the Mineral Resources Branch has issued, by year, since 2019:

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Project Approval Timelines

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	Number issued per year					Avg. # of days to issue
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (as of December 31)	
Placer Class 1 Notifications	126*	282	415	332	353	36
Quartz Class 1 Notifications	53*	130	128	82	96	48
Placer Class 3 and 4 – Decision Documents	68	55	50	62	39	49
Quartz Class 3 and 4 Decision Documents	15	20	19	16	6	55
Quartz Mining Land Use Approvals	14	19	17	12	8	61

* Class 1 exploration notifications were implemented after the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) vs. Yukon court decision in spring 2020. Prior, Class 1 notification was required only within the RRDC area and if projects overlapped with First Nation Settlement Land.

Approved by:

January 29, 2024

 Deputy Minister
 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

 Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Mineral Sector Status and Supports

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Yukon continues to attract interest from investors, explorers and miners due to the territory's mineral potential, identified resources and stability as a jurisdiction.
- Natural Resources Canada announced in the fall that the 2024 spending intentions for mineral exploration in the Yukon is \$147.1 million; their preliminary estimate of 2023 exploration spending in the Yukon is \$164.3 million and will be finalized later this Spring.
- The reported placer gold production for 2023 was 73,690 crude ounces worth \$154.47 million, down from 80,165 crude ounces in 2022.
- Last year saw an overall increase in quartz and placer claims staked compared to 2022. New quartz and placer claim staking went up from 3,178 and 1,411 in 2022, respectively, to 5,868 and 3,178, in 2023.

Additional response:

- The territory ranked 20th in the world for desirable mining jurisdictions according to the Fraser Institute survey for 2022. 2023 rankings are not yet available.
- We are also working with First Nations partners to develop new minerals legislation. One goal is increased certainty for the industry on rules and processes that better align with Final Agreements and best practices.

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Mineral Sector Status and Supports

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- There were 82 hard rock exploration projects active in the territory in 2023.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be questions about the health of the mineral and exploration in the Yukon and what the Government of Yukon is doing to support the sector.

Background:

- Indicators of the general health of the quartz and placer mining sectors include exploration expenditures, increases in mineral and metal production, new mineral claims staked, the total number of existing claims, and strong commodity prices.
- Because most mineral discoveries do not progress to advanced stages, and only a small proportion of advanced-stage projects go into production, another indicator of a healthy sector is a high ratio of early-stage projects.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects. (See BN #99)
- The reported placer gold production for 2023 was 73,823 crude ounces worth \$158 million, down from 80,165 crude ounces in 2022.
- Our work to create modern Minerals Legislation realizes a 30-year promise made to First Nations and will create an effective and sustainable framework for the mining industry and the territory - one that will lead to a bright future for mining in the Yukon.

Placer and Quartz Production

- Total gold production from the Yukon's placer mines was 73,823 crude ounces as of December 31, 2023. This represents an approximate value of about \$158 million (based on an average gold price of CDN\$2620.27 for year).
- In recent years, annual placer production has been approximately 75,000 ounces of gold.

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Mineral Sector Status and Supports

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Energy, Mines and Resources

- The total value of metals reported by Yukon hard rock mine operators for 2023 was \$513 million. Natural Resources Canada valued quartz mineral and metal production in 2022 at approximately \$491 million. This is less than \$499 million in 2021 but more than in previous years: \$458 million in 2020, \$157 million in 2019, and \$218 million in 2018.

Staking Activity —2022 and 2023 Comparison (January 1 – July 31)

- There were 5,868 quartz claims staked in 2023, and 162,340 total quartz claims are in good standing. This is an increase from 2022, when there were 3,178 quartz claims staked.
- There were 1,701 placer claims staked in 2023, and 29,542 total placer claims are in good standing. This is an increase from 2022, where there were 1,411 placer claims staked.

Fraser Institute 2022 Survey of Mining Companies

- While the Yukon's overall Investment Attractiveness for 2022 ([31st out of 62 jurisdictions](#)) [dipped from 2021 \(23rd out of 84 jurisdictions in 2021\)](#), we rank top of the three Northern territories and only one place below BC in Canada's ranked list.
- The year 2022 also saw the Yukon obtain a strong rating as a jurisdiction whose geology encourages mineral investment, once again leading the three Northern territories and ranking above our neighbours to the south, BC
- The Fraser Institute noted several key areas identified by industry when responding to questions about our territory. We are encouraged to see that work is already well underway in these areas.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 15, 2024
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Security for Mineral Projects

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- The Government of Yukon requires financial security for all quartz mines, most large quartz exploration projects and certain placer projects.
- We review security for quartz mines at least once every two years and yearly for applicable quartz exploration projects. We also complete a full review during applicable quartz licence amendments or renewals.
- We calculate security based on the anticipated cost to the government of reclaiming and closing the site, should it be necessary. The Government of Yukon holds \$201 million in financial security for quartz mines and mineral exploration projects.

Additional response:

- We are implementing the reclamation and closure plan for the abandoned Minto Mine in consultation with Selkirk First Nation and using the security we currently hold.
- The Minto Mine is the first time we have drawn on a surety bond to respond to an abandoned mine and implement reclamation and closure.
- Surety bonds are an acceptable form of security under our current regulations, and we have been successful in drawing money from this bond.
- We will use the experience gained at Minto to both inform our work to develop new mineral legislation and to update our industry guidelines on determining financial security.

Session Briefing Note

Spring 2024

Security for Mineral Projects

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Questions have been raised about the Yukon's financial security process and outcomes for major quartz mines. This is of particular interest since Minto Metals Corporation abandoned the Minto Mine in spring 2023. (See BN #3)

Background

Process Improvements

- Energy, Mines and Resources is exploring legislative options to ensure adequate security and reclamation and closure planning as part of developing new minerals legislation. (See BN #5)
- Energy, Mines and Resources is reviewing the financial guidelines for quartz mining licences and aims to publish updated guidelines later this year. These updates will include more clarity and direction on the forms of security and the circumstances under which they are permissible.

Mine Reclamation and Closure

- The Government of Yukon reviews and approves a mine operator's security and reclamation and closure plan before issuing a quartz mining licence and on a regular basis afterwards.
- Every year mine operators must produce a report on progressive reclamation, the results of monitoring programs and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Financial Security for Quartz Mines

- The Government of Yukon holds approximately \$197 million in security for quartz mining projects. This includes \$1.7 million held for Brewery Creek, \$80,000 for Carmacks Copper, \$103.7 million for Eagle Gold Mine, \$11.3 million for Keno Hill Silver District, \$75.2 million for Minto Mine (original amount, currently being expended to support active closure and remediation) and \$4.9 million held for Sä Dena Hes.

Session Briefing Note

Security for Mineral Projects

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Financial security for quartz mines is determined by both the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Water Board. The Yukon Water Board determines required security under its legislation.
- The Government of Yukon collects whichever security determination amount is higher between the Yukon Water Board and the Government of Yukon. The Government of Yukon is responsible for holding the financial security.

Financial Security for Quartz Exploration and Placer

- The Government of Yukon currently holds \$4.2 million in financial security for quartz exploration and placer project.
- The Yukon Water Board can require financial security for Class 4 placer mines.

Approved by:**April 9, 2024**

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Recommended Response:

- The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Oversight Group, also known as the Oversight Group, is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and Yukon First Nations to oversee the YESAA process and promote its ongoing improvement.
- The Oversight Group is making progress on an amendment to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- This amendment would provide a mechanism in which existing projects requiring amendments or renewals of their authorizations could be exempted from a new assessment if certain criteria are met and affected First Nations consent.
- Phase one consultations on the proposed amendment were completed in December 2022.
- Officials from the governments of Canada and Yukon as well as the Council of Yukon First Nations are developing a guidance document and implementation plan to help support federal legislative drafting requirements.
- The Oversight Group continues to work with the YESAA Board to identify and advance other improvements to the YESAA process.

Additional Response:

- The Oversight Group committed to a comprehensive review of YESAA by 2027, as outlined in their Terms of Reference.
- The Oversight Group will define the scope and approach for a future review.

Context - this may be an issue because:

- Industry representatives are monitoring progress on the proposed amendment to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA).

Background:

- The Oversight Group is a joint effort between the governments of Canada, Yukon, and First Nations to seek efficiencies and ongoing improvements to the YESAA and YESAA processes.
- The Oversight Group was established because of the YESAA Reset Memorandum of Understanding ("Reset MOU"), signed in November 2017.
- In 2018, the Oversight Group adopted joint priorities which focus on three main areas:
 - revitalizing the YESAA Forum;
 - improvements to consultation and engagement; and
 - policy development and targeted technical working groups.
- The Oversight Group meets regularly to continue its work under the YESAA Reset MOU.
- The Government of Yukon and the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) sent a joint letter to the Minister of Northern Affairs in December 2020 requesting a focused review of the YESAA.
- In February 2021, the Minister of Northern Affairs indicated his commitment to working with members of the Oversight Group on amendments and renewals.
- The purpose of the review will be to propose amendments to address the need for an assessment of when a project's authorization is amended or renewed.
- Yukon First Nations maintain that any decisions concerning determining the need for an assessment of project amendments and renewals within First Nations' traditional territories will require the agreement of that First Nation. The Government of Yukon supports Yukon First Nations' position.
- The Technical Working Group, supporting the Oversight Group, held engagement workshops with industry, First Nations, and other organizations on the targeted YESAA amendment to address the assessment of amendments and renewals on October 25 and November 16, 2022.
- The engagement period closed December 2, 2022. A What We Heard report was developed and shared with the Oversight Group.

YESAA Reset Oversight Group

Executive Council
Office

- In fall, 2023, the Technical Working Group completed a Guidance Document that would address concerns identified during engagement and recommended to the Oversight Group a small revision to the proposed amendment.
- The Oversight Group continues to advance the targeted amendment, while taking steps to identify the requirements and process for initiating the full review of YESAA and the Regulations to follow.

Approved by:

2024.01.31

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

Date

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

Topic: Current Yukon Water Board license applications of note.

QUARTZ UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Victoria Gold Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company has a Type A Water License and in November 2020 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing.• The Board and EMR signed an agreement in January 2021 to pilot a process in which the two regulators conducted a collaborative review of the submission and hold joint meetings with the company.• On June 17, 2022, the Board determined to not approve the RCP and Ordered \$104,903,628 in security inclusive of security held under the Quartz Mining Act.• On August 1, 2022, the company filed documents (an appeal) with the Yukon Supreme Court related to the Board's determinations.• On September 28, 2022, the Court ordered that the Water Board Order dated June 17, 2022, be stayed, insofar as it required the company to furnish an additional \$36,241,328 in security, until 30 days after a decision is released by the Court on the appeal.• On October 3, 2022, the company submitted an updated (2022) RCP and security costing pursuant to the licence which the Board is reviewing.• The Board and EMR signed a second pilot process for the review of the RCP and security costing.• The Secretariat and EMR held a workshop with the company on January 8 and 9, 2024 to seek clarity and discuss information gaps.• The Board is waiting for the company to submit an updated RCP and will continue its review.

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

BMC – Kudz Ze Kayah	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In November 2020, the company created an application for a Type A Water Licence and began submitting supporting documents.• A Decision Document (DD) was issued for the project on June 15, 2022.• The public comment period for the application began on January 6, 2023.• The DD has been set aside per the Yukon Supreme Court decision.• The Board is waiting for a DD.
Goldcorp Kaminak Ltd.- Coffee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company submitted two applications (Type A and Type B) to the Yukon Water Board in November 2023.• The Type A application is in administrative review.• Technical review of the application will be supported by Hutchinson Environmental consultants.
Alexco Keno Hill Mining Corp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company has a Type A Water LicenceLicense and in November 2021 submitted an updated Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP) and security costing.• The Board completed its review of the RCP and security costing and on September 8, 2023 ordered the company to furnish and maintain security in the amount of \$11,346,433.• The company submitted its 2023 RCP and security costing on November 27, 2023.• The Board is reviewing the RCP with support from SLR Consulting.

**Notable Yukon Water Board
Applications**Executive Council
Office**CHAPTER 14 WATER USE DISPUTE**

APPLICANT	DETAILS
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On February 21, 2023, Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) submitted a water use dispute application to the Board regarding Water Licence QZ19-055 issued to Mount Nansen Remediation Limited Partnership (MNRLP).The Board has determined the Parties to the proceeding are LSCFN, Canada, Yukon and MNRLP.The Board is currently awaiting a response by LSCFN.

HYDRO UNDERTAKINGS

APPLICANT	DETAILS
Yukon Energy Corp. – Aishihik Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water Licence HY22-016 was issued to the company on December 21, 2022.On April 30, 2023, YEC submitted for Board Review and Approval, a Five-Year Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (“MAMP”) pursuant to the licence.The Board’s review of the MAMP is on-going.

MUNICIPAL UNDERTAKINGS

APPLICANT	DETAILS
YG Community Services – Dawson City	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In July 2021 Community Services (CS) applied to amend their Type A Water Licence for the Dawson City Wastewater Treatment Facility in order to improve treated effluent quality.An intervention was received from the Government of Yukon.CS responded to the intervention on August 9, 2023.On October 18, 2023, the Board advertised notification of a virtual public hearing for December 6, 2023 with an intent date of November 27, 2023.No persons indicated they intended to appear at the public hearing by the intent date and the Board cancelled the hearing.The Board issued an information request to Community Services and is awaiting a response.

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Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

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Haines Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 2021 the Village of Haines Junction opened an application to renew its Type B Water Licence for municipal water supply and waste disposal which expired on January 29, 2022.• Interventions were received from Government of Yukon and Parks Canada/Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in June 2023.• On September 20, 2023, the Board advertised notification of a public hearing in Haines Junction for November 6 & 7 with an intent date of October 27, 2023.• No persons indicated they intended to appear at the public hearing by the intent date and the Board cancelled the hearing.
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PLACER UNDERTAKINGS	
APPLICANT	DETAILS
Tamarack Inc. – Indian River and Montana Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The company applied for a Type B Water Licence and Placer Mining Land Use Approval for a project in the Indian River wetlands complex.• In June 2017 the company was advised that the Board was satisfied that it would be in the public interest to hold a public hearing given the matters raised in the application and the interventions. Of note was the request for a public hearing by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Board also issued an information request to the company.• The company responded to the Board's information request on November 23, 2023 and Jan 6, 2024.• The response is currently being reviewed.
Fellhawk Enterprises Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On October 6, 2021, the company submitted an application to the Board for a Type B Water Licence and Class 4 placer land use approval.• The mining plan proposed works on mining grants currently granted in another company's mining land use approval.• The Board denied the application for a Water Licence and Approval.• The company filed a petition filed in Supreme Court of Yukon on August 30, 2022• The YSC found the Board's reasons for decision were not adequate and as a result the Court found the Board's decisions were not reasonable.

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Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The YSC ordered the Board to reconsider the application.• The reconsideration is underway.
Indian River Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board has several active applications before it which are in the Indian River wetlands complex.• YESAB recommended terms in evaluation reports stating there should be no mining in undisturbed wetlands within the Indian River complex.• The decision body (Energy Mines and Resources) varied the recommendation to allow for mining in these areas subject to submitting an approved wetlands reclamation plan.• Interventions in the water licence process from Yukon Conservation Society and First Nations requested the Board hold public hearings on the matter of wetlands and encouraged the Board to develop a policy to guide decision making.• A three-day virtual public interest hearing was held in October 2020.• Interventions included reference to an MOU between the Yukon government (YG) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) in which YG committed to work with TH to develop a policy and guidelines for the protection and reclamation of Indian River wetlands.• In August 2021 the Board released a "What We Heard Report" and made a recommendation to the Premier to consider the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection, Use and Reclamation of Yukon Wetlands. The Board is participating in the YG Wetland Policy Group and is working on the development and implementation of Water Board Wetland Information Guidelines, which will eventually be informed by the wetland policy.• The Board continues to deliberate each application on a case-by-case basis given the evidence provided by all parties.

Notable Yukon Water Board Applications

Executive Council
Office

Statistics - Water Licence Applications 2013 to Date			
Year	Type B	Type A	Total
2014	120	4	124
2015	133	2	135
2016	123	8	131
2017	135	7	142
2018	121	5	126
2019	102	7	109
2020	116	5	121
2021	93	6	99
2022	108	3	111
2023	88	4	92
2024	9	0	9

Statistics do not include plans submitted for review and approval by the Board.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office

2024.02.01

Date

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- The Government of Yukon works on a case-by-case basis with mineral claim holders to consider compensation requests.
- In some cases, we provide opportunities for eligible claim holders to relinquish their mineral claims in exchange for non-monetary benefits, such as a period of relief from annual requirements to work or provide payment on mineral claims in other regions of the territory.
- The Steering Committee for the development of new minerals legislation is considering how to best incorporate clear and fair compensation rules for claims impacted by changes in allowable land use. (See BN #5)

Additional response:

- Mineral activities in areas with new or approved land use plans and in municipalities must comply with all legislation, land use plans and other requirements for that area.
- No expropriations of placer or quartz mining claims have resulted from implementing the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.
- As regional land use planning in other regions advances, we can offer more clarity on where development is and is not permitted and to what degree.
- We are finalizing information materials on management of mining in the Yukon's planned and zoned communities. Our goal is to reduce land-use conflicts within municipal boundaries through clarifying the tools available to communities under the current legislative framework.

Session Briefing Note

Compensation for Mineral Claims

Spring 2024
Energy, Mines and
Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The mining and exploration sector is interested in the approach to compensation for mineral claim holders when land use planning, regulatory decisions, changes to municipal boundaries or other initiatives affect its interests.

Background:

- Energy, Mines and Resources received compensation requests from resource rights holders who feel the regulatory process has slowed or denied their ability to work their claims.
- At times, non-monetary compensation has been provided for mineral claims affected by federally and territorially imposed land use changes (e.g., Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan). (See BN #83)

Claims within Municipalities

- The Yukon government recently renewed a quartz mineral staking prohibition order for the municipal boundary of the City of Dawson. A similar quartz mineral staking prohibition order is in place until July 2027 for most of the City of Whitehorse, aligning with the Official Community Plan.
- The *Placer Mining Act* prohibits staking mineral claims within municipal boundaries and the land immediately surrounding a dwelling. Due to the expansion of the municipal boundaries, there are existing placer claims within some municipal boundaries, notably the City of Dawson.
- The Department of Community Services is working with the City of Dawson to plan for land development. In certain areas, conflicts have arisen due to active placer claims in future development areas.

Approved by:

January 31, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Prepared for Minister Streicker
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date prepared: January 23, 2024
Last Updated:

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Session Briefing Note

Placer Mining in Wetlands

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- In 2023, the Government of Yukon released *A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands* to increase our knowledge about wetlands, guide how we make decisions on wetland use and conservation and protect special wetlands.
- We are now beginning to implement the policy, which often involves working in partnership with First Nations, industry and environmental non-government organizations.
- Specific actions to implement the policy being undertaken by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources include revised guidance for wetland reclamation for placer mining and guidance on the application of the mitigation hierarchy (how to manage the loss or reduction of wetland benefits).

Additional response:

- The Department of Environment is also leading several policy implementation actions including developing a revised wetland classification system, new wetland mapping standards and Yukon-specific methods for evaluation. (See BN #91)
- An interim approach for placer mining in the Indian River area has been in place since January 2020. This approach protects the most sensitive wetland types (all bogs and 40 per cent of fens) and requires a wetland protection and reclamation plan for placer mines.

Context — this may be an issue because:

Session Briefing Note

Placer Mining in Wetlands

Spring 2024

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Resources

- Implementation of *A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands* and the ongoing management of wetlands is of interest to Yukoners, First Nations, environmental groups, and the mining industry.

Background:

- Development of the wetlands stewardship policy began in late 2017. The Government of Yukon developed the policy through an inclusive process with Indigenous governments and groups, boards and councils, municipal and federal governments, industry representatives and non-government organizations.
- *A Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon's Wetlands* was released in January 2023. It contains 16 implementation actions with near-term, mid-term and long-term implementation targets over the next 10 years.
- The Government of Yukon previously completed regional-scale wetland mapping for the Peel Watershed planning region and more detailed mapping in the Beaver River, Mayo/McQuesten and Indian River watersheds.
- The Department of Environment is seeking opportunities to support ongoing work to improve our understanding of wetland soil carbon and emissions from land use changes, such as placer mining. (See BN #91)
- The Yukon Water Board has drafted wetland information guidelines for placer mining applications based on the feedback from the board's public interest hearing on placer mining in wetlands held in 2020.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 31, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Exploration Spending / Yukon Minerals Exploration Program

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- This year, we are spending \$1.4 million on the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program to support the mineral exploration industry.
- The Yukon Mineral Exploration Program provides part of the risk capital to support early-stage exploration for both hard rock and placer exploration projects.
- The program leverages private sector funding at an average ratio of more than 2:1.

Additional response:

- Last year, the program supported 41 exploration projects and generated over \$3.3 million in investments.
- For the 2024 exploration season, we received 62 applications for funding: 39 for hard rock projects, and 23 for placer projects. Staff are reviewing the applications now and we expect to announce the successful applicants in early May.
- In 2023, we updated the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program's criteria to encourage exploration for critical minerals.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There is interest in how the Government of Yukon supports mineral exploration and a general interest in exploration statistics and trends.

Session Briefing Note

Exploration Spending / Yukon Minerals Exploration Program

Spring 2024Energy, Mines and
Resources

Background:

Yukon Mineral Exploration Program

- To stimulate investment in critical minerals in the Yukon, the evaluation criteria for the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program was recently updated to include extra weighting for projects that target critical minerals as the primary exploration target.
- For the 2024 exploration season, the program received 62 applications for funding (39 hard rock and 23 placer applications). The total amount requested is \$2.14 million and the estimated total investment represented by these projects is about \$6.1 million.
- The applications are currently being reviewed for compliance with the program and will be scored using merit-based criteria. The list of successful applicants is expected to be released in early May.

Mineral Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditure Statistics

- Junior exploration companies conduct most of the mineral exploration in the Yukon. Exploration activities contribute significantly to the Yukon's annual economic activity.
- Of the 82 active hard rock exploration projects in 2023, 31 spent over \$500,000 on exploration.
- Just over half of the money spent in 2023 by explorers was invested in exploration for gold. Zinc-lead projects saw 25 per cent of spending, followed by copper (23 per cent) and silver (8 per cent). Just over one per cent of exploration spending was focused on tungsten, nickel and platinum group metals.
- The largest number of exploration projects occurred in the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (27), followed by Kaska Nation's asserted territory (15), Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (12) and Selkirk First Nation (11). All other Yukon First Nations saw fewer than 10 projects.

Session Briefing Note
Exploration Spending / Yukon
Minerals Exploration Program

Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- Actual exploration spending reported by Natural Resources Canada in the Yukon increased from \$166.2 million in 2019 to \$186.8 million in 2022, despite drops in 2020 and 2021, \$83.6 million and \$153.9 million, respectively.
- It is important to note 2023 exploration expenditures are not yet final, and \$164.3 million is only an estimate. (See BN #93)

Approved by:

April 22, 2024

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#101
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Since 2020, we have been advancing the Collaborative Stewardship Initiative with Kluane First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Selkirk First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- In 2023, Natural Resource Officers conducted 12 joint site visits for mineral development, forestry and land use activities with Collaborative Stewardship partners.
- We value working together with Yukon First Nations to enhance environmental stewardship, information sharing, and monitoring across the Yukon.

Additional response:

- The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch conducted water quality monitoring training sessions with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in both fall 2022 and spring 2023, resulting in a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in-led sampling program that focused on both Bonanza and Hunker creeks.
- Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections met with Collaborative Stewardship partners over this past winter to go over 2023 monitoring data and plan for the 2024 field season.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Yukon First Nations have expressed interest in participating in joint compliance monitoring and enforcement efforts under the Yukon's natural resource legislation.

Background:

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative is in its fourth year. Activities focus on inspection processes and procedures, information-sharing, water quality monitoring, cross-training and joint fieldwork.

Session Briefing Note

Collaborative Stewardship

#101
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

- The Collaborative Stewardship Initiative has been successful to date, with additional Yukon First Nations expressing interest in participating.
- The initiative does not cover investigations, enforcement, or reciprocal legal action (i.e., prosecution) under either Yukon or Yukon First Nations laws, nor does it involve wildlife management or harvesting issues.
- Through the work with our Yukon First Nations partners, we have determined that the initiative should expand in three areas:
 - knowledge and skill transfer related to compliance promotion;
 - training opportunities for Yukon First Nations; and
 - Yukon First Nations-led, community-based water quality monitoring.

Approved by:

January 29, 2024

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Date approved

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources**Recommended response:**

- Our government has continued the mineral staking prohibition within the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory in the Yukon to allow time to address the court declarations made in the Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Dena Council mining cases.
- We also instituted a mineral staking prohibition for the Áashú (a-shoo) Village site and surrounding area in the asserted Traditional Territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation to support our ongoing discussions.
- Our goal is to identify solutions that address our shared interests in land and resource matters, provide certainty to industry and benefit all Yukoners.
- We are working collaboratively with First Nations to develop new mineral legislation to replace the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act*. In that process, we are considering many of the issues raised in the court cases and anticipate the new legislation will help address those and the declarations. (See EMR #5)

Additional response:If asked about the Ross River Area:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River Area was put in place on March 27, 2013, and is in place until April 30, 2026. This is intended to allow time to advance consultation with the Ross River Dena Council and the other Kaska Nations on how best to address the court declarations regarding mineral staking, exploration and development.

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

-
- Ross River Dena Council has been actively participating in the work to develop new mineral legislation.
 - The discussions around the development of new mineral legislation will create the foundation to address the issues covered by the Declarations, after which we will be able to re-assess the need for the mineral staking prohibition in the Ross River area and in other areas in the territory.
 - These important discussions about the Yukon's mining legislation are ongoing. On behalf of the Yukon government, I would like to extend my thanks to the representatives from Ross River Dena Council and all our First Nations partners for their valuable input to date.

If asked about the southern Yukon portion of the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory:

- The mineral staking prohibition in the southern portion of the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory in the Yukon was put in place on February 1, 2017, and is in place until April 30, 2026.
- Liard First Nation has been actively participating in the work to develop new mineral legislation.

If asked about the White River First Nation:

- We are addressing a range of issues through bilateral negotiations with the White River First Nation, including consultation obligations related to the mineral declarations.

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
ResourcesIf asked about the Taku River Tlingit First Nation:

- We are advancing discussions with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on several matters including the mineral declarations, consultation, and their land interests in the Yukon.
- To support these discussions, our government withdrew land associated with the Áashú Village from potential land disposition and mineral staking on March 28, 2019. This withdrawal is in place until December 31, 2024.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- Mineral staking prohibitions in asserted traditional territories remain a focus of discussions with affected First Nations and are of interest to other First Nations, industry, and stakeholders.
- The mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska asserted Traditional Territory were extended for a 2-year period in April 2024.

Background:

- In 2012, the Yukon Court of Appeal made two declarations with respect to the Ross River Dena Council v. Yukon (2012 YKCA 14) mining case: (1) the Yukon government (YG) has a duty to consult with the Ross River Dena Council (RRDC) in determining whether mineral rights on Crown lands within the Ross River Area are to be made available to third parties under the provisions of the Quartz Mining Act; and, (2) YG has a duty to notify and, where appropriate, consult with and accommodate the RRDC before allowing any mineral exploration activities to take place within the Ross River Area.
- In 2013, YG took steps to comply with the second declaration by amending the Quartz Mining Act and Placer Mining Act to implement a new regime for Class 1 mining activities.

TAB 27 ECO/EMR #102**Session Briefing Note****Spring 2024****Mineral Staking Prohibitions
in Response to Litigation**Executive Council Office
and Energy, Mines and
Resources

- In 2014, both the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and Kaska Dena Council (KDC) started court proceedings seeking the same mineral declarations granted in the Ross River Area for their respective asserted traditional territories in the Yukon. The declarations were granted by consent.
- The three mineral staking prohibitions in the Kaska and Taku River Tlingit First Nation Traditional Territories cover approximately 23 per cent of the Yukon.
- Additional staking prohibitions are in place for reasons such as land use planning, to create parks and protected areas, or to disallow staking within municipal boundaries. About 53 per cent of the total area of the Yukon is currently under a prohibition.

Approved by:_____
Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office_____
2024.04.30_____
Date approved_____
Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources_____
April 30, 2024_____
Date approved

Session Briefing Note

Northern First Nations' Memorandum of Understanding

#103
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Recommended response:

- We are committed to collaborative and sustainable resource management that is in the best interest of Yukoners.
- In 2019, the Government of Yukon signed the North Yukon Oil and Gas Memorandum of Understanding with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-cho Nyak Dun.
- Through the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of Yukon committed to collaborate with the affected First Nations governments to review decision-making processes and tools under the *Oil and Gas Act*.
- We are completing this work through the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum and Working Group which includes all signatories.

Additional response:

- The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum advances the goals of reconciliation and economic development for the territory.
- Our joint approach respects environmental stewardship, including the protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Context — this may be an issue because:

- The First Nations in northern Yukon have expressed a desire to see a collaborative approach to any future oil and gas development in their traditional territories.

Background:

- On June 9, 2023, the three newly elected Chiefs of the participating Yukon First Nations briefly met with the Minister to discuss:

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- Chance Oil and Gas Limited's permit extension request;
 - the Oil and Gas Act Section 68 Benefits Agreement; and
 - the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act Screening Committee Assessment Process steps.
- In 2022, the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum developed and signed a work plan to address priority issues.
 - On July 25, 2022, the North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum decided to defer discussions regarding dispositions until the Successor Resource Legislation process for new minerals legislation concludes to avoid overlap in the engagement processes.
 - The North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum Working Group continues to meet monthly. Matters related to Chance Oil and Gas Limited have been a focus of recent discussions.
 - North Yukon has the only active oil and gas permits in the territory. These occur within the Traditional Territories of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

April 30, 2024

Date approved

Session Briefing Note**SPRING 2024****Gateway (Yukon Resource Gateway Program)**Highways and
Public Works**Recommended response: General program overview**

- The Government of Yukon is committed to supporting critical mineral exploration and development in the Yukon.
- Improving infrastructure to Yukon's most mineral-rich areas will set us on course for a more prosperous future.
- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program has several infrastructure projects that take multiple years to go through various stages of planning, design, assessment, procurement and construction.
- Early project planning includes:
 - heritage assessments;
 - environmental baseline studies;
 - environmental assessment; and
 - planning for granular sources.
- All necessary to advance a project to procurement and construction phases.
- In the upcoming year, in collaboration with the First Nations in whose traditional territory the projects are planned, we aim to tender work for the Robert Campbell Highway and begin design work on the Silver Trail.

Additional response:

- Over the next year, the department will be focused on preparing for construction on the Silver Trail and the section of the Robert Campbell Highway between Ross River and Faro.

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Public Works

- In addition, preparation work is taking place to allow for the environmental assessment of the Robert Campbell Highway component, which runs just past the Tuchitua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground, from kilometre 114 to kilometre 171.
- Simultaneously, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is working to advance the completion of a project agreement with Selkirk First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase 2 improvements.

Additional response: Program structure

- The Government of Yukon has committed to working with Yukon First Nations to build meaningful and collaborative relationships to support the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's success for all parties.
- For each component identified, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources negotiates a project agreement with the affected Yukon First Nation in whose Traditional Territory the project resides.
- These agreements provide a process by which the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments will work collaboratively.
- They also outline how we will structure procurements to align with the Yukon First Nations Procurement Policy and to ensure there are benefits for each community.
- Once an agreement is signed, the Department of Highways and Public Works starts implementing the agreement.
- This process involves continued planning and collaboration with the affected Yukon First Nation. It encompasses key steps like project planning and design, YESAB assessment, regulatory review and permitting.

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Public Works

- Implementation work is crucial. Once the foundational work is complete, project procurement and construction can begin.

Additional response: Yukon First Nations involvement

- The Government of Yukon is working in collaboration with Yukon First Nation governments to seek input and finalize Project Agreements for components of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program within their respective Traditional Territories.
- Six Project Agreements have been signed with Yukon First Nations for seven components to date.
- The program will provide opportunities to Yukon First Nations through short and long-term employment opportunities, training, and benefit agreements.

Additional response: Funding

- The Government of Yukon worked to increase the flexibility of the Gateway funding program with the Government of Canada. The funding program now includes additional flexibility to focus on projects that First Nations and communities have requested.
- This flexibility allowed us to include additional road components on the Silver Trail, North Canol, and sections of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- A Contribution Agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada resulted in the Yukon Resource Gateway Program's completion date being extended from 2025 to March 2031.
- The program budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is approximately 4.2 million and if project agreements are reached, spending is expected to

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increase in 2025-26 to 14.5 million and continue to grow in following years as construction advances.

Recommended response: Carmacks Bypass

- The Carmacks Bypass officially opened on Friday October 27, 2023. This project is the first to be completed under the Yukon Resource Gateway Program and is jointly funded by the Government of Canada.
- The new road connects the existing Freegold Road with the Klondike Highway.
- The project was a collaborative effort between Pelly Construction, the Yukon government and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- Pelly Construction was awarded the \$29.6 million contract to construct the new road and bridge on November 3, 2021.
- The project was successfully finished a year in advance of the designated timeframe and within budget.

Additional response:

- In the spring of 2019, a Project Agreement for the Carmacks Bypass component was signed with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.
- This contract had specific commitments for total labour hours to be done by First Nations persons. I'm happy to report that the total labour hours performed by Yukon First Nations persons was 99,175 – three per cent more than the labour hour commitment made at the time of bid submission by the contractor.
- The construction of the new road and bridge allows industrial vehicles to bypass the community of Carmacks, creating a safer flow of traffic for residents.

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Public Works

- The Carmacks Bypass will provide improved access to mining activities while enabling the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation to benefit from contracting, education and training associated with the project.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 (Ross River to Faro)

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway was signed for two projects within the traditional territory the Ross River Dena Council. The Project Agreement is for:
 - construction and resurfacing of the Robert Campbell Highway from kilometre 354.9 to kilometre 414.4; and,
 - bridge replacements, line of sight improvements and brush clearing on the North Canol Road.
- The department is working with Ross River Dena Council to advance the Robert Campbell Highway component of the project.
- Right-of-way clearing contracts have been awarded for this component of the Robert Campbell Highway. This was a direct award contract to a Ross River Dena Council citizen-owned company. This portion of clearing work has been completed.
- The YESAB assessment is complete and permitting is in place for a portion of the project near Ross River at kilometre 363.6 to kilometre 367.5, which will allow work to proceed for this section of the component.
- In 2023, the Yukon government continued to work with Ross River Dena Council to implement the Project Agreement and determine the next steps of this project together.

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- The aim is to tender work to advance the construction of this 4-kilometre component this year.

Recommended response: Silver Trail

- A Project Agreement for the Silver Trail component was signed with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun in February 2021.
- The Silver Trail component includes rehabilitation of the Mayo River bridge as well as road reconstruction and spot repairs from kilometre 0 to kilometre 110 between Stewart Crossing and Keno City.
- In the coming year, the department will be advancing the implementation of the agreement with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, with design and assessment activities planned to occur in 2024-25.
- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works are working with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun through an implementation committee and are meeting monthly.

Recommended response: Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171

- In June 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Liard First Nation for this section of the Robert Campbell Highway.
- This project, which runs from just past the Tuchtua River Bridge to the Frances Lake campground at kilometre 114 to kilometre 171, includes road reconstruction and sight-line improvements. It has an estimated capital construction cost of \$50 million.
- In 2022, we worked to develop the environmental baseline work plan and anticipate entering into a funding contribution with Liard First

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Nation later this year. Additionally, we underwent preliminary project planning and developed the scope of work.

- The department is making progress on identification of granular resources, developing the work plan for the environmental assessment processes, as well as planning further phases of the project.
- Officials have been in regular contact with Liard First Nation on this component.

Recommended response: Freegold Road Phase II

- In October 2020, a Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.
- The Freegold Road Phase II component includes replacement of three bridges, which will replace aging infrastructure and ensure trucks carrying heavy loads are able to safely make it down the Freegold Road.
- Two of these bridges are in an area where the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation overlap.
- As such, a Project Agreement with Selkirk First Nation is required, and discussions are being led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Recommended response: Nahanni Range Road Phase 1

- In January 2020, a Project Agreement with Liard First Nation was signed for the first phase of the Nahanni Range Road component.
- This work includes identifying clearing and brushing work, completing the draft environmental assessment, project planning and design work.

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- Clearing of the right-of-way to improve sight-lines began in 2020, with two direct-award contracts to First Kaska Limited, and work has continued with two additional contracts awarded in fall 2023.
 - The Government of Yukon and the Liard First Nation entered into an additional agreement to provide heavy equipment operator training for Liard First Nation citizens.
 - This training was completed in November 2021, and successfully certified eight Liard First Nation citizens. The training objective is to help increase the capacity for the Liard First Nation to participate in road construction projects in the future.
 - Environmental baseline information for this project will be collected in collaboration with the Liard First Nation.
 - We continue to engage on this project through the Yukon Resource Gateway Project Committee, which includes Liard First Nation and Yukon government representatives.

Recommended response: North Canol Phase 1

- In April 2020, a Project Agreement was signed with the Ross River Dena Council for the North Canol component of the Yukon Resource Gateway Program.
- This project includes bridge replacements, sight line improvements and vegetation clearing on the North Canol Road.
- We are working with Ross River Dena Council on advancing the agreement.

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- Officials from the Department of Highways and Public Works met with the Chief of Ross River Dena Council on January 26, 2024, to discuss the Gateway projects.

Context—this may be an issue because:

- The Yukon Resource Gateway Program includes several high-profile projects with multiple stakeholders and First Nations involvement.

Background:

First Nation Involvement

- Implementation of Project Agreements is happening between the department's Major Programs Unit and the Yukon First Nations with Project Agreements.
- The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is leading the Project Agreement negotiations with Selkirk First Nation for the Freegold Road component. However, the Department of Highways and Public Works is involved in these discussions.
- Federal government support has been confirmed through the Contribution Agreement with the Government of Canada.

Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 354.9 to km 414.4 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
Design (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Spring 2020 – Complete
YESAB Submission (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020 – Complete
Construction (right-of-way clearing) (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Fall 2020 – Complete
Procurement (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	Anticipated in 2024. To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council.

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Construction (km 363.6 to km 367.5)	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council.
Silver Trail Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Silver Trail Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun	Ongoing
Design, planning and assessment - first projects	2024-25
Construction of Silver Trail - first projects	2026-27
Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Preliminary Design	2021
YESAB Submission	To be determined in collaboration with Liard First Nation. Anticipate by fall 2025.
Procurement – sub project	2025
Construction of Robert Campbell Highway km 114 to km 171 – sub project	2026
Freegold Road Phase II	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timelines
A Project Agreement with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation for the Freegold Road Phase II component was signed.	Fall 2020
Project Agreement negotiations are ongoing with Selkirk First Nation, led by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.	Ongoing

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Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
Nahanni Range Road Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Liard First Nation	Ongoing
Construction (right-of-way clearing)	October 2020
YESAB and other regulatory submissions – bridges at km 143 and Upper Frances River	Winter 2024-25
Construction of bridge replacement and rehabilitation	To be determined
North Canol Phase 1 Project Schedule	
Project Details and Activities	Start Date and Estimated Timeline
North Canol Phase 1 Project Agreement Implementation in collaboration with Ross River Dena Council	Ongoing
YESAB submission	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dene Council
Procurement	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dene Council
Construction	To be determined in collaboration with Ross River Dene Council

Approved by:

Deputy Minister, Highways and Public Works

April 5, 2024

Date Approved

Session Briefing Note

Placer Mining Economic Contributions

#105
Spring 2024

Energy, Mines and
Resources

Recommended response:

- Two recent reports from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics provide insights on the economics of placer mining in the Dawson City area.
- Overall, the reports demonstrate placer mining contributes significantly to the Dawson City economy – to employment, to business revenue and to business GPD.

Additional response:

- The first report focused on the contribution of placer mining to the Dawson City economy. In 2020, placer mining contributed 45 per cent of the business revenues and 26 per cent of business employment in Dawson City.
- The second report focused on revenues, expenditures and business characteristics. It focused on placer miners operating in the Dawson City area in 2022. Gross revenues reported by placer mine owners were \$154.9 million and expenditures totaled \$46.5 million. Eighty per cent of the reported expenditures were spent in Dawson City and 14 per cent were spent in Whitehorse.
- Forty-seven per cent of placer mines in the Dawson region are owned as sole proprietorship, 49 per cent are owned as partnerships or shareholders and 41 per cent of the owners reside in Dawson City.
- When interpreting these results, it is important to recognize the circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic impacted activities in the mining sector.

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Placer Mining Economic Contributions

#105
Spring 2024

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Resources

Context — this may be an issue because:

- There may be interest in these reports on the economics of placer mining in Dawson City.

Background:

- The first report, titled “Contribution of Placer Mining to Dawson City’s economy,” provides estimates related to the economic contribution of placer mining to Dawson City’s economy before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The report is based on data from the biannual Yukon Business Survey and includes pre-pandemic (2018) and pandemic (2020) point-in-time estimates. This includes the following:
 - in 2018, placer mining contributed to 38 per cent of business revenues in Dawson City, compared to 45 per cent in 2020; and
 - for business employment in Dawson City, placer mining contributed to 22 per cent in 2018 and increased to 26 per cent in 2020.
- The second report, “Dawson City Placer Miners Survey,” was commissioned by the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The report provides survey data about demographics, operations, expenditures, revenues and operating environment between 2020 and 2022.
- The survey was a census of all placer mining operations who self-reported to the Yukon Water Board as being close to Dawson City. Out of 109 eligible operations, 79 completed the survey.
- Prior to the publication of these reports, Energy, Mines and Resources worked with both the Klondike Placer Miners’ Association and the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in to review and modify the reports to ensure objectivity.

Approved by:

Deputy Minister,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

January 31, 2024

Date approved